IRAN—CONTRA INVESTIGATION

JOINT HEARINGS

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AS DECLASSIFIED
BEFORE THE

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECRET MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO IRAN AND THE NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION

AND THE

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE COVER' ARMS TRANSACTIONS WITH IRAN

ONE HUNDREDTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

100-11

AUGUST 4, 5, AND 6, 1987

TESTIMONY OF DEWEY R. CLARRIDGE, C/CATF, AND CLAIR GEORGE

Printed for the use of the Select Committees on the Iran-Contra Investigation



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SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECRET MILITARY ASSIST-ANCE TO IRAN AND THE NICA-RAGUAN OPPOSITION

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JOINT HEARINGS ON THE IRAN-CONTRA INVESTIGATION

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JOINT HEARINGS ON THE IRAN-CONTRA INVESTIGATION

Testimony of Dewey R. Clarridge and C/CATF *

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1987

House Select Committee To Investigate Covert Arms Transactions With Iran

AND

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECRET MILITARY
ASSISTANCE TO IRAN AND THE NICARAGUAN OPPOSITION,
Washington, DC.

The Select Committees met, pursuant to call, at 9:00 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lee H. Hamilton (chairman of the House Select Committee) and Hon. Daniel K. Inouye (chairman of the Senate Select Committee) presiding.

Chairman Hamilton. The Select Committees will come to order. The witness this morning is Mr. Dewey Clarridge. Mr. Clarridge, would you stand and raise your right hand.

Witness sworn.

TESTIMONY OF DEWEY R. CLARRIDGE, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Chairman Hamilton. Do you have an opening statement, Mr. Clarridge?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I don't.

Chairman Hamilton. May I suggest that you pull that microphone close to you and speak right into it. Otherwise it doesn't carry very well.

Mr. Eggleston.

Mr. Brooks. Mr. Chairman, may I make an inquiry of the chair? The young lady with Mr. Clarridge, can we find out who the young lady is?

Chairman Hamilton. Would you identify yourself please.

Ms. McGinn. Kathleen McGinn from the Office of the General Counsel of the CIA. I represent Mr. Clarridge in his official capacity and the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Brooks. She is sent here as a representative by the Agency?

Ms. McGinn. I am here in both capacities for Mr. Clarridge as a

CIA official, and for the Agency. Those interests coincide.

[•] Chief of the Central American Task Force of the CIA.

Mr. Brooks. Mr. Chairman, that raises in my mind a question. I am not going to object, but nonetheless it seems to me that the committee has to consider that if counsel appears as a representative of the Agency and at the same time represents an individual witness who is here, I wonder whether or not there isn't a conflict of interest.

Mr. FASCELL. Of course there is.

Chairman Hamilton. Counsel, you said you were representing the Agency and Mr. Clarridge in his official capacity, is that your statement?

Ms. McGinn. That is correct.

Chairman Hamilton. You are here, I presume, with the consent of Mr. Clarridge and with his approval?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It is fine with me.

Mr. FASCELL. Who represents him in his personal capacity, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No one.

Ms. McGinn. He is here without a lawyer in his personal capacity.

Chairman Hamilton. Any further questions?

Mr. Eggleston.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me begin with a brief review of your background. You were born in New Hampshire?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You are a graduate, are you not, of Brown University, and then you did some postgraduate work, I think, at Columbia, is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You started with the Agency [deleted], and you had a number of assignments with them since that time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You had one period of time as Chief of Operations in the Near East Division?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I was Chief of Operations for a brief period of time and then Deputy Chief for the Division for [deleted].

Mr. EGGLESTON. You were [deleted].

Mr. Clarridge. [Deleted].

Mr. EGGLESTON. In August of 1981 or so, you became [deleted] of the Latin American Division?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. There comes a time then when you became Chief of the European Division, when was that?

Mr. Clarridge. About 1 October 1984.

Mr. EGGLESTON. So you became—you left your job as [deleted] of the LA Division right before the Boland Amendment became effective, is that fair?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You remained as Chief of the European Division until what time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Until mid-February 1986.

Mr. Eggleston. At which time you became [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. What is your position now?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I still hold that position.

Mr. Eggleston. Having reviewed your background, let me turn to the first area that I want to ask you about this morning, that is about the Iran initiative. I am going to ask you questions initially principally about the time period of November 1985. I know you

have testified on this subject before.

Before you is an exhibit, a number of cables which are exhibits, DRC-1-1 through 1-84. You don't have to look at them now, but as we go through, I will ask you to direct your attention to various aspects of them. I am not going to take you through all of them since you have testified before and since members are generally familiar with most of your testimony. I will summarize aspects of your testimony where convenient. If I do so inacurrately, please stop me.

Is is true that late in the evening or afternoon of November 21, 1985, which was a Thursday, you received a telephone call, you were at home, and you received a call from Colonel North?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. I would guess that it was sometime in the

early evening or mid-evening of the 21st.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And at the time that you received the call, he asked you if you could provide some assistance to him with regard to something that was taking place in [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right.

Mr. Eggleston. What did he tell you about what it was that was going on and what he needed your assistance in?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't recollect exactly, but I think he said he

needed to get an aircraft landing rights to come into [deleted].

Mr. EGGLESTON. In response to his request, you had the CIA Headquarters cable [deleted] to go in [deleted], is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. Eggleston. There comes a time shortly after that when there is sent a cable telling them that they should assist a Mr. Copp if he should require assistance, is that fair?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. The cable mentioned not only Mr. Copp, but it also mentioned that Mr. Copp was Mr. Secord. Both names I be-

lieve were used.

Mr. EGGLESTON. As of the time that you sent the cable, which tells them to provide assistance to Mr. Copp or Mr. Secord, did you know from Colonel North what it was this operation was about?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't believe so at that point. I think all I knew at that point was that [deleted] needed to be instructed to contact

or would be contacted by Mr. Copp-Secord.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You knew though that a flight was coming in from someplace and needed the permission [deleted] to land [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I don't know whether I knew the flight had

actually left from Tel Aviv at that point or not.

Mr. Eggleston. That was my question. You knew it was coming from Tel Aviv?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, but I probably only knew that once I had

gotten to the office.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Which would have been Friday, November 22d? Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, sometime in the early morning, it might have been as early as 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Eggleston. Did you know at that time what kind of plane it was that was coming in?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. At some point during that time, I was told that

the plane was an El Al 747.

Mr. Eggleston. As of this early time, your initial conversations with Colonel North, did you know or had you been informed by Colonel North what was on the plane?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I was not.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me ask you to direct your attention to exhibit 2 in the book.

Mr. Clarridge. DRC-2?

Mr. Eggleston. Yes, sir. Do you have that?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I see it.

Mr. EGGLESTON. This is a State Department cable that was sent by [deleted], back to headquarters of the State Department, dated November 22d, and it relates events which occur, I believe, on November 21. I would like to direct your attention to the second half or so of paragraph 2 of the cable where it begins, "The [deleted] manager," do you see that?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I will just read it to you. "The [deleted] manager stated that he hoped Foreign Ministry authorization would be given for two aircraft to transit [deleted]. They would be carrying arms provided by Israel for Iran. [Deleted] said that the [deleted] official (apparently acts as broker for the arms deal) referred to an 'American general' involved in the undertaking and the close relations of [deleted] with the United States. [Deleted] wondered if the Embassy had information about the strange case perhaps involving a retired U.S. General," and the response, if you go on, I won't read it—the response, as you go on, essentially relates that the Embassy [deleted] related to [deleted] that they didn't know anything about it.

I take it that this cable, which makes explicit reference to arms going from Israel to Iran through [deleted] involving a retired U.S. general, is not something that you knew about at or about November 22d?

Mr. Clarridge. No, this is the first time I have ever seen this cable.

Mr. Eggleston. You were then in the office on November 22d, and I believe you begin sending and receiving a series of cables relating to this problem of obtaining landing rights for this flight. Do you recall that occurring on Friday?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. Let me direct you to one which is a sample of others, No. 1-6. There are not separate tabs for each cable. What I have done is I think in the lower right-hand corner of each one, you will be able to see it is 1-6.

Mr. Clarridge. Right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me just read the first paragraph of this one. It is a sample of others. "NSC has requested that you ask [deleted] to weigh in with appropriate [deleted] officials on this matter. 'Pull out all stops' as aircraft is 1 hour from its abort time." This is a cable sent, I take it, by you to [deleted]? Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. Eggleston. Is this what is called a privacy-channel cable?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. That indicator at the top indicates that it was the European Division's privacy-channel.

Mr. EGGLESTON. The indicator, so that it is clear, there is a place

at the top that says E/O, then [deleted].

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is the indicator for the European Division's privacy-channel.

Mr. EGGLESTON. What is a privacy-channel cable?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. A privacy-channel is a channel of communications between usually the Division Chief or the acting Division Chief and his Chiefs of Station in which he discusses the matters that are particularly sensitive.

Usually it is used for, or very frequently it is used for personal matters and copies of this, of privacy-channel traffic going in or out

also go to the Deputy Director for Operations.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I take it, though, the reason that it is a privacy-channel is that there is not the usual distribution of cables within the Agency; is that fair?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, that is fair. There are other such systems,

but that is a fair enough statement.

Mr. EGGLESTON. So the result of doing this on privacy-channels was that you would receive copies of these cables and in addition to you, the DO would receive some as well?

Mr. Clarridge. Right, the Deputy Director for Operations would

also receive all of them.

Mr. EGGLESTON. We covered this a little bit in your deposition and have done some subsequent looking into it. Is it also fair to say that on privacy-channel cables, these cables are not maintained in any executive registry; they are filed by the Division Chief?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. They are filed by the division—when you say the Division Chief, I don't think the Division Chief normally files them

all.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I wasn't referring so much to who put it in the file as that the files are maintained——

Mr. CLARRIDGE. By the division and by the Office of the Deputy

Director of Operations.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Do you know, Mr. Clarridge, whether the DO maintains copies of these or whether or not the only copy is maintained by the Division Chief, in the Office of the Division Chief?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I didn't know that.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I want to direct your attention to the date/time group on this channel.

It says TOT: 22 [deleted], November 1985. Do you see that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I take it, and this is so that it is clear, the 22 refers to the day, so this indicates this is a cable on the 22d of November, 1985, and the time is [deleted]—Z stands for Zulu?

Mr. Clarridge. Zulu.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And that is a designation of Greenwich mean time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I take it the reason you do that is because you have stations all over the world and this way everyone is on the same time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That would make it [deleted] Washington time. Mr. Eggleston. Five hours' difference. As of the time that you sent this cable to which I have just referred your attention, indicating that [deleted] is to pull out all stops and enlist the aid of the chargé in pulling out all stops, do you know anything more about this initiative other than that Colonel North has asked you to obtain permission from [deleted] to permit a flight to land?
Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. By this time, I assume that Charlie Allen

had come to see me and had shown me some intelligence reports having to do with an effort underway to get the hostages out of

Lebanon.

Mr. Eggleston. So you recall that by Friday morning, you have had a conversation with Charlie Allen [deleted]; is that right?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you remember how many [deleted] you were shown?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't remember how many or even their con-

Mr. Eggleston. Obviously, you remember something about their content because you remember that they relate to getting hostages out of Lebanon.

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I do.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you remember anything else about their content?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I do not.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you remember that there were references [deleted] to negotiations between Americans and Iranians?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't specifically remember that.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you have any recollection that [deleted] made reference to weapons?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I don't.

Mr. Eggleston. You do not remember that there were any references to weapons [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. Not at all.

Mr. Eggleston. Are you confident that this meeting with Mr.

Allen took place on Friday morning, November 22d?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I'm confident about Friday—it must have been, because it seemed to me that in my conversation on the phone with Colonel North, he mentioned that he would have Charlie Allen come to see me with some material that would explain what was going on.

Mr. EGGLESTON. As of this time, do you have any idea what it is, why there is a problem with [deleted] permitting this plane to

Mr. Clarridge. Well, I don't know—I think the cable traffic has it all, sort of spells it out step by step. There was a problem that it [deleted], and apparently some arrangements that Mr. McFarlane had made with the Foreign Minister or somebody had not jelled.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me ask you, Mr. Clarridge, if you could look

at cable 1-7. Do you have that in front of you?

Mr. Clarridge. Right. Mr. Eggleston. This is a cable also dated 22 November 1985. It is [deleted], which would have been [deleted] DC time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, that is correct.

Mr. Eggleston. And this is a cable from [deleted] to you; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me read to you from the first paragraph—it says, "At 1603 hours local, Copp," which is Secord, "advised that [deleted] the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in principle opposed clear-

ance and would recommend same to Minister.'

Then if you go down to paragraph 2, it reads: "Copp called back again while I was writing this message. I advised him above. He called White House and recommended authorization for [deleted],' [deleted] to pull Minister out of cabinet meeting. He said McFarlane was being pulled out of meeting with Pope. He said my instructions were to pull out all stops."

[Deleted.] As of the day that these messages are taking place, do you yet have any knowledge, have you been told what it is that is

on the aircraft?

Mr. Clarridge. I cannot recall specifically when I was told that there were sophisticated oil-drilling spare parts on the aircraft. I don't know whether it was by this time or later on in the day.

Mr. Eggleston. You think sometime on November 22d you were told that the content of the airplanes was oil-drilling equipment?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is what I think is quite possible. Mr. EGGLESTON. I know you were asked this in the depostion. I take it, it is your testimony that you were not informed that it is something other than spare parts for the oil-drilling industry until

substantially later, maybe as late as January, 1986.
Mr. CLARRIDGE. I think, as I said in the deposition, Charlie Allen tells me that by the 26th or 27th, he would have showed me some [deleted] reports that would have indicated to me that the equipment shipped in on the 25th was in fact weapons or munitions or whatever.

Mr. EGGLESTON. But the information that you are relating to us is information that you received from Charlie Allen [deleted], not as a result of anything that Colonel North or anyone else would have told you?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Not at that point, to my recollection.

Mr. EGGLESTON. When is the first that you believe Colonel North indicated to you if ever that there was something other than oil-

drilling equipment onboard the flight?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, he has stated that he told me sometime around the 25th, 26th, 27th, I believe. He may well have done that, but I don't specifically recollect it. Maybe he did and maybe he didn't.

The thing is that perhaps I knew by the 27th when Charlie Allen showed me [deleted] and when he told me or when I asked him, it

just didn't make that big an impression on me.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Your testimony in your deposition was fairly clear that you did not know shortly after the flight that these flights contained weapons and you certainly had no recollection of Colonel North telling you prior, I think you said, to maybe as late as January 1986–

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I didn't say anything about Colonel North telling me in January 1986. I said that I officially learned in January 1986, that there were HAWK missiles onboard. I also stated in my depo-

—Charlie Allen says that he showed me materisition that I was al at least by the 26th that would have indicated that there were at least weapons onboard.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Do you recall Charlie Allen showing you that

material?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I remember Charlie Allen showing me material all the way along. I don't specifically remember him showing me material where it mentioned weapons.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And you do not have this recollection either before or after the flight; is that fair?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. When you say "before," you mean when he first came to see me on the 22d?

Mr. Eggleston. Yes, sir.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And indeed, you do not recall now that Charlie Allen showed you [deleted] after the flight which indicated they were weapons; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. So your testimony is based on something that Charlie Allen has told you subsequently?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. When do you, sir, first have it in your head through a recollection of your own that you knew that there was something other than oil-drilling equipment on the flight?

Mr. Clarridge. When I remember being told officially that there were HAWK missiles onboard was some time in January. That is

what I recollect.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you know who told you that in January?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I don't. But I know it had something to do

with the time that the Finding was being put together.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, throughout November 22d, you also continue or begin to arrange not just a landing clearance for a flight coming in [deleted], but you begin to arrange a—clearances for flights going from [deleted] into Iran and you become involved in getting the [deleted] involved to get an overflight clearance [deleted], do you recall that?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct. I do remember that. There are

two parts to that, actually.

Mr. EGGLESTON. OK. I will make you or ask you to refer, if you could, to cable no. 1–12. I am not going to read from it, but it might be helpful for you to have it right in front of you.

Do you have that?

Mr. Clarridge. Right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. This is, I take it, the first cable or appears to be the first cable you have sent to [deleted]. The beginning of it indicates that you are communicating to [deleted] that this is an initiative that has the highest levels of U.S. Government interest; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. Eggleston. And the rest of that cable goes on to discuss the need for three overflight clearances for this flight, which is going to Iran; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. As of November 22, I take it, you know that there is a flight going from Israel into [deleted], you know or believe that it is going to be broken down into at least three flights and fly from [deleted] into Iran, you know that it relates to the hostages in some fashion, you know—and you also believe that—it is your understanding as of that time that the cargo onboard is oildrilling equipment; is that a fair summary of the state of your

knowledge as best you recall it today as of November 22d?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. It depends on—yes. I think basically it is, Mr. Eggleston. We are talking about day, time, [deleted] minus five is [deleted] on the 22d. Now, I don't—as I said, there are two parts to the request of communicating with [deleted] as far as overflight clearances. Apparently the first one on—or the first requirement was that because the El Al 747 had to abort, and went back to Tel Aviv, there was an effort made in Tel Aviv to redo the flight in a different form. And again, apparently they wanted to use [deleted] as the breakpoint on the flight into Tehran.

So that is one part of [deleted] thing. I don't know if that is what is going on right now. The second part of the need for the over-flight from [deleted] was when the decision was taken not to use [deleted] anymore and to go from Tel Aviv through some other

country to Tehran.

Mr. Eggleston. Right. Let me get to that in a second.

I think we are going to see some cables late in the day, at least Zulu time, November 23d, that indicate there is a decision made

not to pursue the initiative through [deleted].

Let me just ask you, though, once again, because I am not sure I quite understand this, as of the 22d then, you know there is an initiative underway that has very high level U.S. Government interest. You believe that it involves what appears to be an ordinary cargo plane carrying spares for the oil industry. We have just reviewed a cable where despite the fact that there is high-level pressure involving Mr. McFarlane pressuring high-level people in the [deleted] that [deleted] have made a decision, at least tentative and initial, not to permit this plane carrying oil-drilling equipment to land [deleted].

What is it that you think is causing as of this time, as of November 22d, what is it you thought was causing all the problems with

[deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I mean I haven't gone through this to look at that particular point, but to the best of my recollection, there was still a problem of getting the right authority in [deleted] to agree to the flight coming in.

It seemed to be that—whatever arrangement had been made before was not working and an effort was underway to try to get McFarlane to contact whoever he had talked to before to get things

loosened up.

Mr. EGGLESTON. My question, Mr. Clarridge, is what is it about this operation that you even thought required such a high level of interest and attention at both the U.S. Government and [deleted] level. After all, all we are talking about in your mind as of this time is a landing of a single flight containing nothing but ordinary routine cargo.

What did you think in your mind was causing the [deleted] to

balk over the landing of an ordinary cargo plane?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, at some point, and it becomes clearer in the traffic as you go along, they wanted a diplomatic note stating why we wanted to do this. Now, that may have been the problem at the time.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you recall that one of the things that they wanted in the diplomatic note as well was an indication of what

the nature of the cargo was?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. I see that in the traffic coming in [deleted]. They also wanted, in a second diplomatic note, a statement that was unacceptable to the White House.

Mr. Eggleston. And do you recall what that statement was?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It had—there were two parts to the second note and the second part was a statement that what was going on here was an arrangement to get the hostages out, and the White House

was unwilling to have that statement made.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, let me ask you now, not directed to this initiative perhaps as much as perhaps just generally, is it fair to say that weapons require special handling on aircraft and airports? Do they require a different kind of handling than other forms of nonlethal cargo?

Mr. Clarridge. I am not an expert, but I suppose so. Certainly

munitions do.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Munitions would?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. You now know what was contained on these flights was going to be HAWK missiles which I understand are highly explosive. Would it be fair to say that HAWK missiles would require different kinds of storage and handling and loading and unloading and other types of facilities at the [deleted] airport than oil-drilling equipment would have required in terms of handling on the scene?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, again, I mean—I don't know that much

about it. It sounds right to me.

Mr. Eggleston. Sounds logical?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Indeed, although this has not been made available to you and if you want to challenge it, you can, Mr. Second testified in a deposition before this committee that, indeed, there was simply no way in which you could possibly unload these flights, load them into other planes in [deleted] airport without [deleted] and a number of other people knowing perfectly well what was in the flight because, after all, as he indicated, all sorts of special handling would be required.

Mr. Clarridge. Well-

Mr. EGGLESTON. Did it occur to you at any time, Mr. Clarridge, that the difficulty with this flight, the reason that [deleted] was objecting to the landing of this flight, was because of something about

the nature of the cargo?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, I can't say for sure whether it did or it didn't. I can't recall back then. But I don't recall thinking that it had something to do particularly with the cargo. What I felt was, the problem was that whatever arrangements had been made and

because of the issue involved of the hostages and the requirements that [deleted] might have had in that regard, that that was what the problem was.

Mr. Eggleston. But it never occurred to you that the reason that they were objecting to the landing of this otherwise perfectly ordinary cargo flight was because there was something about the

nature of the cargo that was causing the problem?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, it is not exactly, you know, perfectly ordinary cargo. The United States had an embargo on oil-drilling equipment at that time, and maybe [deleted] considered that sensitive. But frankly, Mr. Eggleston, I cannot remember—and maybe I did think through some things at the time, but I cannot recall now sitting down trying to figure out why [deleted] wouldn't let the cargo in. All I was trying to do was get the goddamned cargo in.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And send a number of cables back and forth to

that effect. Let me move this forward, if I could.

On November 23d, which would have been a Saturday, the cables indicate and continue to reflect efforts to get the flight clearances into [deleted] and then the overflight clearances from [deleted] over [deleted] into Iran.

Let me ask you to look, if you could, to cable 1-19.

This is a cable from [deleted] dated November 23d at [deleted] Zulu, which would have been late morning on Saturday, November 23d, DC time; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. It would be fairly early. About [deleted] in

the morning.

Mr. EGGLESTON. OK. Let me ask you to look—direct your attention to the bottom of the first paragraph—excuse me. The second paragraph. It is a little hard to read because of the photocopying. Let me read it to you anyway.

At 1130 hours chargé went to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and met with [deleted] and [deleted]. They stated they needed note because note would confirm that U.S. Government really involved as they had had doubts. Chargé presented note. They agreed to meet and advise decision soonest.

Move down to paragraph 3 where it says, "[deleted] met with Copp in brief car meeting at 1130 hours. Coordinate action and brief each other."

The final thing I want to direct your attention to is paragraph

four which indicates [deleted] are concerned, [deleted].

Do you recall seeing this cable when it came in?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, I do.

Mr. Eggleston. And let me ask you first about [deleted]. [Deleted] is a [deleted] company that is an arms company. By this time, by November of 1985, you had been Chief of Europe for approximately a little over a year, year and a month, maybe; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, that would be about right.
Mr. EGGLESTON. Was the name [deleted] familiar to you?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, it wasn't.

Mr. Eggleston. It had not, as they seem to say in the CIA, come across your scope during the time that you were Chief of the European Division?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I can't remember it. It may have, but I can't remember it. [Deleted] arms company is not a particularly big deal. Mr. EGGLESTON. This was, as I understand it, at least a fairly major arms dealer, exporting company, in Europe. Nevertheless,

this was not something that you know anything about?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I mean, you have got to remember, Mr. Eggleston, the European Division is the biggest division in the Directorate of Operations. There are an enormous number of things going on at any given time. The fact of the gray arms trade was not particularly a big issue that the European Division of the Directorate of Operations was concerned with, frankly.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I might say, as well, Mr. Clarridge, you don't need to look at it, but paragraph 5, of this cable to which I have directed your attention is the cable where [deleted] are indicating that they would like a formal diplomatic note indicating the origin and destination of the flight, the equipment, U.S. commitment that operation not be made public and airports other than [deleted] but in [deleted] that are being used.

This is a situation now where things are escalating that [deleted] now wants a very formal diplomatic note setting forth the outlines and just exactly what is happening with regard to this cargo flight

flying into [deleted]; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct. Then they asked for a second note.

Mr. Eggleston. And they ask for a second?

You, I think, have been advised by now, Mr. Clarridge, that the reference in the paragraph 3 to which I directed you about [deleted] meeting with Copp in a car, you have probably been advised that [deleted] has indicated that as of that time, at least, Mr. Secord instructs him or tells him specifically that the flight is going to contain HAWK missiles and that HAWK missiles are going to be shipped in return for the release of the American hostages.

You are aware that [deleted] has testified to that effect, are you

not?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I am.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And I am certain you are also aware [deleted] indicated that he sent the cable which is 1-19 and that he also sent a subsequent cable shortly thereafter which dealt only with that conversation in the car with Mr. Secord. That is something you are aware of, that he has testified to that; is that fair?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. That's fair.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Mr. Clarridge, let me just review for you in light of the testimony that [deleted] knew what was going to be in the flight. Let me just review with you if I could who it was who knew that this flight was going to contain weapons as opposed to oil-drilling equipment as of midday on November 23.

And let me just analyze it in terms of the problem that had arisen. The problem was [deleted] was balking over landing rights. The person who brought you the problem, Colonel North, he obviously knew and he's testified here before us that he knew that the flight was going to contain oil—excuse me, HAWKs and not oil-

drilling equipment.

The person that you were principally directing to solve Colonel North's problem, [deleted], has testified that as of this date, he knew that there were weapons going to be on the flight.

We have received deposition testimony from [deleted], who was also part of the solution to this problem that he knew that there

were going to be weapons on the flight.

[Deleted] has told us as well that [deleted] knew there were going to be weapons on the flight. [Deleted] testified that that was what the problem was. [Deleted] didn't want to be seen as transporting weapons to Iran without a diplomatic note from the United States telling them that they could do that because they didn't want to be left holding the bag in case this initiative fell apart.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That was the first instance. It's clear the requirement for the second note was the note that made everything fall

through.

Mr. Eggleston. What is it, you understand is the difference be-

tween the two notes?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, as is clear in reading this material over that in the—the first note, that was delivered by the Embassy to the Foreign Ministry, or whomever, contained all of the required information that is spelled out in here that [deleted] were asking for. Now clearly they must have told [deleted] what was on the aircraft, because that is what [deleted] asked for.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Is it your understanding that they told [deleted]

the aircraft was going to contain weapons?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't know that. I have never been told that. I just heard it from what you said these other people said. But it is interesting that that note must have satisfied [deleted]. Then there came a requirement for the second note and the second note, the White House refused to mention anything about hostages and the whole thing came a cropper.

Mr. Eggleston. Correct. But my point was [deleted] is one of the

actors in this.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right.

Mr. Eggleston. [Deleted] is essentially the problem. They know

there are going to be weapons on the plane?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right. They did, if you look at this traffic. The note they asked for, they asked for what's on board. They must have been satisfied with the answer which they got.

Mr. EGGLESTON. OK. But they knew weapons were going to be on

the flight?

Mr. Clarridge. If that is what you tell me, yes. I can see this,

they must have.

Mr. EGGLESTON. The person who gave you the problem knew. The person you gave the problem to solve knew. The person who was helping, [deleted], knew. [Deleted] knew. But you did not know?

Mr. Clarridge. That is the way is was.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me ask you about this conversation with Charlie Allen. Have you had any opportunity to review [deleted] Charlie Allen showed you on November 22d prior to testifying or since that time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. First of all—the answer to your question is no. The other part of it is that I wouldn't even recall what ones he gave me, and I'm not so sure that he could remember what he gave me on the 22d.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Do you recall that he was—appeared at your door—you didn't summon him; is that fair?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I did not.

Mr. EGGLESTON. He appeared at your door [deleted]. Do you recall him telling you that he had come at the request of Colonel North?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I don't remember that specifically. I think Colonel North said to me that he was going to send Charlie Allen to me. I never met Charlie Allen before.

Mr. Eggleston. This was the first time you met Charlie Allen?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. Just so the record is clear, who is or was Charlie Allen?

Mr. Clarridge. Charlie Allen is and was the National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism.

Mr. Eggleston. He currently works for you?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, he does not.

Mr. Eggleston. He currently works in the counterterrorism area

and you work in that area?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. When [deleted] was set up, he was sort of sent to us but still retained his hat as the National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism. Those hats have now been separated and he is now strictly the National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism reporting to the Director.

Mr. Eggleston. It's your testimony that you don't recollect any-

thing [deleted] that you saw that dealt with arms?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I do not.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Mr. Clarridge, let me focus in for a second, as I suppose you expected me to, on the cable that [deleted] has indicated that he sent to headquarters. It's his testimony that he sent two cables and the reason he sent the second one is that he wanted the conversation that he had had with General Secord to be highlighted and it was very important that he send it in a second cable. I take it it's your testimony you never saw at anytime such a cable?

Mr. Clarridge. I cannot recollect ever seeing such a cable.

Mr. Eggleston. And indeed you can be a little stronger than that I take it, because if you had seen such a cable, I am certain you would have remembered.

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. I think I said that in my deposition.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me just advise you that the committees have done a substantial amount of investigation into that cable which [deleted] has claimed that he sent. He's obviously testified that he sent the cable. [Deleted] has testified either that he saw the cable or was advised at or about the time by [deleted] such a cable was sent. In addition, we have conducted a deposition of the senior CIA communicator [deleted] who recalls at or about this time receiving a cable—excuse me, seeing a cable that dealt with HAWK missiles and Iran. Were you aware of the testimony we had received from the communicator? Am I telling you this for the first time?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I had heard—I didn't know specifically what

he had said, but I had heard that you had received it.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Indeed he testified that he specifically remembers it I think because a friend of his had been a hostage in Iran

and he was outraged that this kind of operation would be going forward. So he has a very vivid recollection of having seen that cable.

There seems to be fairly convincing evidence that such a cable might have been sent. I take it it is your position that you don't know whether one was sent or not sent, but you do know that you never saw it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct. That is also the position of the Deputy Director for Operations and the people in his office who would also

have received copies of that cable.

Mr. EGGLESTON. The committee has also done a study in trying to collect all of the cables that were sent out [deleted] on the afternoon of November 23. They are in your book. You don't need to look at it. We have pretty much collected all of them sent on the afternoon of November 23d, including some that are just personnel-related. And there are two cables that are simply missing and we have been advised by the Office of Legislative Liaison that those cables are simply not available within the Central Intelligence Agency.

Have you heard that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, no, I hadn't heard that specifically.

Mr. EGGLESTON. So in any event, we are left with a situation where two cables are simply unfindable from the afternoon of No-

vember 23, that were sent out [deleted]. No explanation?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I'm not an expert on how the cable traffic operates in our system. But I understand that there are people who are, who are prepared to come and talk to you about how it works and the efforts the Agency has made to find those cables.

Mr. EGGLESTON. OK. I think they would testify their efforts to find the cables have been prodigious but they have been unable to

locate them despite looking in a lot of different places.

Mr. Clarridge, if you could look at exhibit 1-29?

This is the cable from the evening of November 23d that indicates that the operation going through [deleted] is now terminated, and you are not going to proceed with that; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And the operation then continues, however, onto the 24th because by this time you are looking for a new place through which to transport the weapons—excuse me, the cargo; and indeed, you continue to need overflight clearances over [deleted] for the flights into Iran. Is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. You are talking about the cable that just goes on

from here. Yes. Correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And exhibit no. 1-33 is a cable from [deleted] to you. If you look at paragraph 4(a) there is an indication that [deleted] is cabling you that [deleted] needs to know what is going to be in the aircraft. And just quickly, if you look at 1-37, you are responding that the aircraft is going to contain sophisticated spare parts for the oil industry.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. You understand here that two things were going on at the same time. The aircraft in Tel Aviv was also filing flight plans on its own through normal—the normal commercial process in which it was at sometime saying it was going to carry machinery and sometimes saying it was going to be carrying medical sup-

plies and whatever. That was creating a lot of confusion within the clearance system.

As we go along that was why we had to clarify on several occa-

sions for [deleted] specifically what we were carrying.

Mr. EGGLESTON. In fact, is you look at cable 1-49, this is a cable that is actually sent after the flight had landed in Iran. And the bottom of the second paragraph indicates there is confusion over exactly what is in the flight. Your [deleted] had told [deleted] this was oil industry spare parts. The telex from the carrier stated it was medical supplies. And the pilot of the plane, the person who was actually flying the plane, told the ground controllers he was carrying military equipment.

Now did it alarm you at all that the pilot of the aircraft is the person who—the person who obviously is closest to whatever it was that was inside the plane, did it alarm you at all that he is the one who was indicating that it was military equipment, when you believed it was something other than military equipment?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, alarm may be too strong a word. Obviously

I was interested in clarifying the matter.

Mr. Eggleston. If you just look at 1-52, this is the cable you sent back a couple of hours later and in paragraph 3, you indicate again that the cargo was spares for the oil industry and you cannot understand why it is the pilot thinks he's carrying military equipment.

Mr. Clarridge, you, of course, are here in Washington and the pilot is over there with cargo. Do you recall if you took any steps between the first cable I showed you and this cable to verify for yourself what it was that was inside the plane prior to the time you cabled back to [deleted] that he should make a representation to [deleted] that the pilot was in error and it was actually spares for the oil industry?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, I can't recollect specifically doing so, but from the tone of my language here, it sounds to me like I must

have.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Do you have any recollection of what it was that you would have—it seems to me that you probably did as well? Because you are now learning specifically in a cable that the pilot said it was military equipment. Do you have any recollection what it was that you did?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I don't have any specific. But I assume I probably talked to Colonel North because he was the fellow who had told me in the first instance there was oil-drilling equipment

on there. I can't recall making a telephone call per se.

Mr. Eggleston. I take it there wouldn't have been anyone else other than Colonel North whom you could have called to find out what was in it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No.

Mr. Eggleston. If you talked to anybody on the morning of November 25th to determine what it was, you would have spoken to Colonel North?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. On November 25th, did there come a time when you spoke to Mr. McMahon?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. In the evening. Or he called me.

Mr. Eggleston. Did he ask you to come to his office?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, he didn't.

Mr. Eggleston. So it was not a face-to-face conversation? It was a telephone conversation?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Very brief telephone conversation.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Was the conversation about this flight that had

taken place?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. He mentioned simply on the phone that he had learned of the flight and the use of our proprietary, and he said to me that it didn't make much difference as far as he could see whether they were oil-drilling spare parts or it was gunpowder or weapons or whatever, that a Finding might be necessary. And that was the total sum of the conversation.

Mr. Eggleston. You have a recollection then of him saying something about he didn't care what it was, whether it was oil-

drilling spare parts?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. He also mentioned that in either case, they

would be embargoed items.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Did you have any conversation with him about where he had gotten the notion that there could possibly have been weapons onboard?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I did not.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You had not heard, I take it, other than this cable from the-that reflected what the pilots had said, it is your testimony that you hadn't heard that it was anything other than oil-drilling equipment?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I had not.

Mr. Eggleston. Did you correct him as you corrected [deleted] earlier in the day that it was not oil-drilling equipment?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't recall whether I did or didn't.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You indicated earlier that you have some familiarity with the testimony of Colonel North on the issue of the state of your knowledge. It is in front of you as exhibit 6A. I think there is one tab that has both 6A and 6B.

I'm going to ask you to look at 6-A. Directing your attention to page 42, line 921 on to page 43, line 925——

Mr. CLARRIDGE. This is where I actually, I think the testimony here is incorrect. The final reason for not allowing the plane to land had nothing to do with what was onboard that aircraft. It was the failure of the second note to state that the reason for this whole operation was to free hostages. Whatever that meant.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Is it fair to characterize his testimony as saying that he had told you as best he recalled by the time you spoke to Mr. McMahon, he had confirmed to you that there were weapons

and not oil-drilling equipment onboard the flight?
Mr. CLARRIDGE. I'll have to read the whole thing here.

No, I don't think that is necessarily true from what he said here.

He says at some point, he remembers telling me.
Mr. EGGLESTON. If you look at page 43, line 947, through 952, it says, question by Mr. Nields: "But I take it you are saying it was very close in time to when the shipment was actually sent and your best recollection is that it is prior to the time the Deputy Director hit the roof, so to speak."

"Mr. North: Yes. My recollection is that is why he hit the roof."

I take it Mr. McMahon hit the roof when he found out there had been the flight?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. He didn't with me.

Mr. Eggleston. Is it your testimony that you were unaware that Mr. McMahon had become upset when he learned that the

flight---

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct. He had a very moderate conversation with me and he had always had in every conversation, he certainly did not hit the roof with me and I've given you to the best of my recollection the statement that he made at that time.

I don't recall that I corrected him on whether they were spare

parts or weapons or whatever.

Mr. EGGLESTON. It is Colonel North's testimony that he believed that by the time you spoke to Mr. McMahon, he had advised you that it was HAWK missiles and not oil equipment?

Mr. Clarridge. Fine.

Mr. Eggleston. It is your testimony, I take it, that that is inaccurate?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't know whether it is inaccurate. I don't remember specifically when and if he told me that there were HAWK missiles on that particular aircraft or whether I asked him. I simply don't know. Just like if you look at one of his notes in the notebook here, it again doesn't make any sense whatsoever in connection with all of this.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you have a particular note in mind?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It is one of these—I guess it is out of his notebooks. I don't know whether we have those here. It is where he says something about "this is criminal."

Mr. Eggleston. Please look at exhibit 5-23.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. OK. Yes. It says "Call from Clarridge." Now, it says "summoned in by Clair and McMahon." If he's talking about me being summoned in, I never was summoned in. If he's saying that he was telling me that he was summoned in, I don't know whether he was or he wasn't but I can tell you, I never was.

Then "this is criminal," and I don't understand this one, "total

agency was freight-forwarded by Dewey."

Mr. EGGLESTON. The last line essentially describes what your view of the Agency's position was, isn't it, that you were acting as courier——

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I never said that. That is Mr. Juchniewicz's position. I never said when we were asked for a charter airline and the final decision was to use the proprietary, that the Agency was simply throwing business to our proprietary; I've never said that.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me ask you a few questions about 5-23. It appears to say 26 October. I'll represent to you that this was received by us in a series of other notes which would lead to the inference that he has mislabeled this and it should be 26 November 1985, the ones in front and behind it both say November. I think the conclusion is that he simply put the wrong month.

Do you recall speaking to Colonel North in the early-morning

hours on November 26th about what had taken place?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't remember whether I did or didn't, but I specifically don't remember this telephone call and it is inaccurate.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Did you have a conversation on the 25th or the

26th with both Mr. McMahon and Clair George?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I did not. There was one point when Ambassador [deleted] sent a message in to the DCI asking whether he should continue efforts to get [deleted] flight clearances, and I wrote a message and took it to McMahon to sign off on as the acting director.

I'm not sure Mr. George was in town on 26 November, if this is

the date of this particular thing.

Mr. EGGLESTON. But in any event, to "this is criminal," this reference purports to relate a conversation that you had with Colonel North about the conduct that had taken place in the previous couple of days, you don't recall any such conversation with Colonel North taking place?

Mr. Clarridge. No, and I was never summoned by Clair George

or McMahon to any meeting.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, after the flight lands on the 25th, there is a Finding as a result of McMahon learning about this. I'm sure you've heard now that there was a Finding prepared and sent to Admiral Poindexter. You may have heard Poindexter's testimony that it was actually signed on December 5th and subsequently destroyed by Admiral Poindexter.

Did you know that the Finding first was being prepared?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I did not.

Mr. Eggleston. You knew that Mr. McMahon had objected to the flight that had taken place over the weekend because there had

not been a Finding?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is not what I said. What he said was he called me up and he said that he didn't think that it mattered much whether there was oil-drilling spare parts or weapons onboard that flight; both items were embargoed and that we might need a Finding.

Mr. Eggleston. Then you certainly recognized that he had a con-

cern that a Finding might be required? Mr. CLARRIEGE. Yes, I did.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Did you know that he had consulted with the general counsel, Stanley Sporkin, about whether or not a Finding was required?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I had nothing to do with that or no knowl-

edge.

Mr. Eggleston. Did you have further conversations with Mr. McMahon about whether or not he had gone ahead and sought to have a Finding?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I did not.

Mr. EGGLESTON. So between November 6th and when you left town December 5th, you continued to send cables arranging for landing rights, overflight clearances, but you do not know at that time whether there had been a Finding or whether there had been a decision that a Finding had to take place?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct, and supposedly the people superior to me getting the cable traffic are not telling me to cease, must

have a reason to tell me to continue on.

Mr. Eggleston. Please look at 1-78, another cable. Paragraph one reads as follows: "As I said"—this is a cable from yourself to [deleted].

Mr. CLARRIDGE. And [deleted].

Mr. EGGLESTON. And [deleted]. [Deleted], I take it, was going to be the backup place once [deleted] fell through?

Mr. Clarridge. No. After [deleted] got upset with the use [deleted] as the break point, we made arrangements with [deleted] to make [deleted] the break point.

Mr. Eggleston. Is that to say the flight was going to go from

Israel to [deleted] to Iran?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, because the Iranians didn't want the flight

to go from Tel Aviv directly.

Mr. Eggleston. Paragraph one says, "As I said in previous message"—and the "I" here is you—"this operation is still on. However, at this point I do not think we'll be ready for our second sortie until probably early next week. FYIO, whatever was supposed to happen after the first sortie did not happen and we're regrouping. What do you recall it was that you thought was supposed to happen after the first sortie that did not happen?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't recall specifically, and—but I can guess

now.

Mr. Eggleston. I take it your guess now would be that the hostages weren't released?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you know whether you knew that at the time?

Mr. Clarridge. I'm sorry, I can't say.

Mr. Eggleston. That was a cable which was on the 27th of November, 1985; the last cable I want to ask you about is DRC-1-80, dated December 3, 1985, from you to [deleted] and [deleted] again. "We're still regrouping, key meeting of principals will take place this weekend with earliest possible aircraft deployment sometime mid to late week of 8 December."

What did you know about what was going on with the mission at

this time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I don't know, but I think it was when I talked with you at the deposition, you told me there was a highlevel meeting, an NSPG meeting or something on 5 December. I may have known that but I can't recall knowing it.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Do you have a recollection today of what you knew about this operation on December 3d?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, you know, what I knew on December 3dyou know, presumably I knew that it was a hostage deal, that the deal had been more than that, at least the conception more of a strategic initiative to Iran. This had already come up in conversations.

Presumably I knew by this time that there were weapons onboard, or at least surmised it from material that had been given me or maybe that was what I was told. And that there was an effort to continue the initiative to get the hostages out and this might require four more sorties of aircraft.

Mr. Eggleston. Containing weapons?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, yes, maybe I knew that, maybe I didn't.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, I'm getting a little confused about just what you knew at various points. I thought you had indicated that you didn't have any recollection of Mr. Allen showing you [deleted] shortly after the flight took place and that you didn't learn officially that there were weapons onboard until January, 1986.

Are you now testifying that you think that you did know by De-

cember 3, 1985, that there were weapons onboard the flights?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. What I'm saying is that I'm told by Charlie Allen that he showed me material that would have indicated to me that there were weapons onboard, and it may well be that I discussed that with Colonel North and Colonel North or Colonel North discussed it with me.

What I have said before and I'll say again, the only thing I can recollect knowing is when I was officially told sometime in connection with the January 17 Finding that weapons had been onboard and that weapons were involved in this whole transaction.

I'm not saying that I didn't know before January, but that is

when I can specifically remember it.

Mr. Eggleston. You have indicated that you had a conversation with Mr. Allen about [deleted], that he showed you subsequent to this flight and you have testified that it is your recollection that it is his testimony or his conversation with you that he told you shortly after the flight that there were weapons onboard on the basis of his analysis [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, he says that he's sure that he showed me material that would have indicated to me—I had read it. He says I

read it—that there were weapons onboard the flight.

Mr. Eggleston. So he says that he showed it to you. He says you read it and he says if you read it, you would have concluded there were weapons onboard?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right.

Mr. Eggleston. And you don't remember? Mr. Clarridge. I don't remember specifically.

Mr. Eggleston. Have you had a conversation with Mr. Allen [deleted] that he showed you on the morning of November 22d before the flight, did you have a similar conversation with him [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. Not that I recall.

Mr. Eggleston. So he has not told you that he showed you [deleted] before the flight which you read from which you could conclude that weapons were involved in this hostage deal?

Mr. Clarridge. He has not.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, could you take a look at exhibit 9? Do you have that? I am almost out of the Iranian phase.

Mr. Clarridge. You want me to read this whole thing?

Mr. Eggleston. I will direct you to particular sections of it. You are mentioned specifically on the last page, the second-to-last paragraph.

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I recall this. This is the famous statement,

"Dewey and I have been through the whole concept twice"——
Mr. Eggleston. This is a PROF note which the committee members have now seen repeatedly, dated December 4, 1985, a note from North to Poindexter. I am not suggesting that you saw this note at or about the time that it took place, but it is a note that in

some detail outlines what had taken place in the weekend of November, 1985, extensive and explicit discussions about weapons.

On the second-to-last page, near the top, there is a timetable for delivery of weapons and exchange for hostages and on the last page, about the middle, it says "Dewey is the only other person fully witting of this entire plan. Copp, even General Secord is not briefed [deleted], although he suspects. The Israelis are in the same position. Dewey and I have been through the whole concept twice, looking for holes, and can find little that can be done to improve it, given the trust factor with the Iranians."

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Then it goes on to say some other things.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you want me to keep reading?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. "I have not confided in Dewey the longer term goals," et cetera.

Mr. Eggleston. Do you recall the conversation with Colonel

North?

Mr. Clarridge. I do not.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I take it, it is your testimony that if you had such a conversation, which would have been in such detail outlining the initiative and the proposed plans, you certainly would not have forgotten it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Was the date on this thing?

Mr. Eggleston. December 4th.

Mr. Clarridge. Let me make a couple of points here. Number one is this initiative was not being run by European Division, and subsequently after the 17 January Finding was run by the Near East Division. I would not have been the appropriate person for North to have discussed this with in the first place.

The second point I would like to make is that on occasion North had a tendency to use my name with McFarlane and Poindexter because if I said it was a good idea, then they tended to think it

was a good idea.

Mr. Eggleston. So after you stopped sending these cables back and forth in December of 1985, you were not involved again, I take

it, according to your testimony, until September or so of 1986?
Mr. Clarridge. In actually doing something. I was familiar with what was going on because Charlie Allen sat two offices from me, and George Cave, who didn't have a desk, often sat at his desk and would come in and talk to me on occasion about what was going on, but I was not officially involved, no.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Did you continue to have conversations with

Colonel North about the operation?

Mr. Clarridge. I am sure I did, but I can't recall them. Mr. EGGLESTON. Did you consult and plan with him?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I did not.

Mr. Eggleston. Did you know Admiral Poindexter? Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I did.

Mr. Eggleston. Did you speak to him on occasion on the phone?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I can't recall that.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Did you attend meetings on occasion with him?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. In the past, yes. Mr. Eggleston. Similarly, Mr. McFarlane is someone you had some familiarity and dealings with?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. Eggleston. If Colonel North in this PROF note to Mr. Poindexter has indicated not just tangentially the fact that he has in detail reviewed this particular operation with you, wasn't there some danger that if this is not a truthful statement by Mr. North, he could get caught the next time you met with Admiral Poindexter?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is quite possible.

Mr. Eggleston. But it is your testimony that this note in the

PROF note is incorrect?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It is incorrect. If all he was saying, but sort of embellishing it a bit, was that he had been through it on the methodology of getting flights from Tel Aviv through [deleted] to Tehran with me; that was discussed.

Mr. EGGLESTON. But that is not how you read the line?

Mr. Clarridge. No, it seems to be implying that this whole grand scheme was checked out with me, which was not true.

Mr. Eggleston. If you could look at exhibit 15-

Mr. Clarridge. What-Mr. Eggleston. Fifteen.

This is a document dated January 24, 1986. It has been called a notional time line document. Page I of this document reads, and it is a memorandum from North to Poindexter, "To my knowledge, the only persons completely cognizant of this schedule are" and under the CIA witnesses, you are listed. The schedule listed is a very detailed schedule that details flights coming, flights going, weapons, all sorts of stuff.

I take it, it is your testimony, that this is erroneous?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I never saw this, and I don't think I was even in the country at the time, and if I was in the country, I was in the process of writing the document that became [deleted], and so,

therefore, wouldn't have been involved anyway.

I would like to make one other point. As this operation began to take its new form after the 17 January Finding, Colonel North wanted me very much to be involved, and that didn't turn out the way it happened. But his intention was to get me involved, but the operation was run on a different way.

Mr. Eggleston. It was run instead, I take it, through the Near

East Division?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And not through [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. But his indication in the memorandum to Admiral Poindexter that you were completely cognizant of the schedule, which is a very detailed schedule, that is inaccurate?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I wasn't.

Mr. Eggleston. If you could look at exhibit 16—the second paragraph, it is a memorandum from North to Poindexter, dated May 22, 1986. It indicates "The following people will have copies of this time table, Clair George, Dewey Clarridge and Bob Earl." It seems to indicate that you were one of three people who will have copies of a timetable, again with regard to flights that were going to take place in late May of 1986. Did you have this timetable? Mr. CLARRIDGE. This is the first time I have seen this.

Mr. EGGLESTON. You certainly didn't have it in May, 1986?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. Was this ever sent anywhere by the NSC? I see, it was just going to Poindexter.

Mr. EGGLESTON. The memorandum was just going to Poindexter,

but it indicates-

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That this attachment—OK, yes. The operational plan I guess was sent there—do you know whether it was ever sent

Mr. EGGLESTON. Well, I guess the more relevant question is, did you ever get an operational plan, this one or any other one, in May of 1986?

Mr. Clarridge. Not to my recollection.

Mr. Eggleston. So to the extent that this indicates that you were continually to be involved in the planning of this operation, that is not accurate?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That was not true. The only time I came near being involved was when [deleted], Chief of the Near East Division. went on a trip somewhere, and he asked me to oversee his efforts

in getting the logistics of this whole thing put together.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, I don't have any more questions about the Iranian initiative. I want to ask you some questions about your prior job, which is during a period of time that you were [deleted] of the LA Division. I take it you have testified that in August of 1981, you became [deleted] of LA?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And one of your jobs as [deleted] of the LA Division was, among others, was to be ultimately responsible, whatever, for the Contra program, is that correct? Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And that was a program that was funded through Congress up until the time of the Boland Amendment and operated under a covert action?

Mr. Clarridge. You mean up until 1 October 1984? Mr. Eggleston. Yes, sir.

Mr. Clarridge. Right.

Mr. Eggleston. And the funds for the program begin to runout in the spring of 1984?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, certainly by May.

Mr. Eggleston. They were pretty much gone by May?

Mr. Clarridge. No, because we had a program to phase them out in early August.

Mr. Eggleston. But by that time, you knew there was going to

be a problem with the funding? Mr. CLARRIDGE. Certainly.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Is it fair to say that the funding and where the Contras were going to get money from were going to be a problem?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I am sorry.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Is it fair to say that where the Contras were going to get money in order to sustain themselves in the field militarily and everything, that became a source of concern in the Agency?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I think that is put a little too strongly. I think within the Agency, and that really involved myself and the Director and in the interagency group, there was still the hope that the President would be able to pull it off and that the Congress would

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vote the money. The effort, as I recall it, from, if you want to say from late spring through the summer, was focused on that particu-

Now, there was discussion about, you know, where could you possibly get other funds from, and there were frankly not very many

Mr. EGGLESTON. Mr. Clarridge, you will recall in your deposition, you were asked a series of questions about a trip you took [delet-

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. Eggleston. —In April, 1984, and you were asked questions about whether there were discussions with [deleted] about providing assistance to the Contras. Do you recall being asked those questions in the deposition?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right, and I would also like to state that prior to giving that deposition, I did not have an opportunity to

review the cable traffic which led up to my trip out [deleted].

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, could you take a look at exhibit 18, which is your deposition, excerpts from your deposition? Let me just reference a few sections of this.

[Deleted.]
Page 123, line 11, "Question: Do you recall any discussion with officials of [deleted] Government about [deleted] providing assistance to the Contras?

"Answer: No."

And if you could just look at page 130, a question by Mr. Barbadoro, Deputy Chief Counsel for the Senate Select Committee, at line 13, "Question: Picking up on what Mr. Eggleston is asking you about, at any point [deleted] the Latin American Division were you aware of any discussions in the Agency about soliciting aid from third countries?

"Answer: No."

Then, 131, line three, the question is: "During that period of time, to your knowledge, were there any discussions in the CIA about soliciting aid from third countries?

"Answer: No."

Mr. Clarridge, if you were asked those questions today, would

you answer them differently?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, I would, based on the review of the cable traffic prior to my going out, but I think that cable traffic also needs to be clarified, because I'm not so sure the answer was soliciting. My reading of that cable traffic is that at least the Agency thought something was being offered.
Mr. Eggleston. Well, let me ask you to look at exhibit 19-4.

This is a memorandum from Mr. Casey to Mr. McFarlane dated 27 March 1984. This would have been shortly before your trip to [deleted]; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. I don't know exactly when I went. I went in

April.

Mr. Eggleston. I seem to remember somewhere it is around the 10th through the 13th.

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. Paragraph 1 says "In view of possible difficulties in obtaining supplemental appropriations to carry out Nicaraguan

covert action project through the remainder of this year, I am in full agreement you should explore funding alternatives with [delet-ed] and perhaps others."

The rest of that paragraph in paragraph 2, deals with [deleted]. Paragraph 3, says, "The second alternative we are exploring is the procurement of [deleted]." There is a name deleted which is apparently [deleted]—"has indicated he may be able to make some equipment and training available"—I think it says "to the Contras, [de-

This would indicate that the CIA is itself exploring the possibility of obtaining assistance through [deleted]; is that a fair summary

of this?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, that's what this states, but I don't think

the facts are exactly—were exactly that way.

Mr. Eggleston. So is it your testimony that this memorandum from the DCI, Casey, to Mr. McFarlane is not an accurate memorandum?

Mr. Clarridge. As far as my knowledge.

Mr. Eggleston. What is your explanation of—or your discussion of the events that took place?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well-

Mr. EGGLESTON. What is the distinction you are drawing between the facts as you know them and the facts as they are represented in this memorandum, and I guess in the cables?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, from my reading of the traffic, after I gave my deposition on this, what I see happening, and it would start, I think, in January when [deleted] official came over to this country.

Mr. Eggleston. January of 1984? Mr. CLARRIDGE. Was it January?

In January 1984, came over to this country [deleted] and met with the Director. Now at that meeting or at the end of that meeting, I was called up to it and asked afterwards to give him a briefing on the Central American situation. What it looked like on the ground. I had done that also the year before. Now then there begins a cable exchange in which it appears that [deleted] had offered something in terms of—or was prepared to offer training and equipment. I cannot say whether the Director of CIA solicited that [deleted] or whether he offered it. But then as we—as that traffic goes along, there is a key cable, which I would refer you to, which is [deleted], which states very clearly what [deleted] discussion with [deleted] as to what at least [deleted] understood would be the form of assistance at that time.

And—you must have this cable here.

Mr. Eggleston. I don't know it by that number.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. What it talks about, if I may say, is bilateral ar-

rangements between [deleted] and [deleted]. All right?

Mr. EGGLESTON. I'm asking someone to find it for me. Let me just ask you, did you have any conversations directly with [deleted] about—I'm not using the word soliciting. About them providing assistance to the Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. The only thing they raised with us, and that's why I think this cable is significant, because I think there was a misunderstanding within our building throughout, is [deleted] said that they had had a request from [deleted]—for assistance

and [deleted] said they will have to pay for it. And I said to him at that time, there isn't any [deleted] with any money to pay for it.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me ask you my question over again. Did you have any of these conversations directly with individuals in [deleted] about assistance? I'm not asking about solicitation or payment.

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Eggleston. Did you have conversations with them about that?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Eggleston. You had no conversations whatsoever with them?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Eggleston. You were aware, however, that the conversations were taking place inside the building with regard to whether or not [deleted] would provide this assistance to the Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't think that is correct. At least to my knowledge it wasn't. I don't remember any conservations where there were people involved in the building discussing whether they could get help from [deleted] or anybody else.

Now that may have been going on, but they weren't going on in

my presence.

was aware that there was "an offer" from [deleted] which turned out not to be an offer.

Mr. Eggleston. Well, could you take a look at exhibit 19-2?

Do you have that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Right.

Mr. Eggleston. A cable dated 23d March 1984. It would have been about a week before the memorandum that we just—to which we just discussed. The upper right-hand corner seems to indicate a copy of this cable went to [deleted], that's handwritten on this cable. That's you, I take it?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I wrote it.

Mr. Eggleston. That's your handwriting? Mr. Clarridge. No. It's not my handwriting, but the cable says from [deleted].

Mr. Eggleston. This cable is a cable you drafted?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. Eggleston. There are a lot of code names in this. Let me just take you through it. "During a meeting with [deleted]---

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That's with the DCI.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Casey?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Right.

Mr. Eggleston. —"on March 23d on the Nicaraguan project, I mentioned to him [deleted]?"

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Eggleston. --"comments to you in reference A."

Reference A is an earlier cable.

"He suggested that I send a cable to [deleted]"—that's McMahon?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. EGGLESTON. —"asking him to meet with [deleted] regarding possible support."

This entire cable is labeled Subject: [Deleted] Assistance to Nica-

raguan Project.

Doesn't this reflect a conversation that you had with Director

Casey about [deleted] assistance to the Nicaraguan Project?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. About a cable which was sent in, I believe, by [deleted] where [deleted] appeared to have made an offer. That's why I think it is important—you have to get the reference.

Mr. Eggleston. I think the cable is exhibit 19-1. You may want to check that yourself. Or it might just be 19. I'm sorry. It's exhibit

no. 19.

This is the first cable in the series?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't know. We have them here. It's the first

cable in your series.

Mr. EGGLESTON. OK. This is a cable from [deleted] to the Director dated March 8, 1984. It makes a reference to various dinners and makes a reference to the possibility of your visiting, and about half way down, it says "On the latter"—which is a reference to your potential visit, and you at the time were [deleted] the Latin American Division, the [deleted] official mentioned that he was optimistic of positive support. It's a little hard to read. It appears to say "to past requests if [deleted] comes here."

Are the past requests past requests by the Agency for assistance

to the Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. Must have been. Must have been.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Doesn't that imply that the Agency had made past requests for assistance to the Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. Certainly does. It does more than imply.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Wouldn't you derive from this that there had been a past solicitation from the Agency for assistance to the Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. well, I can't really tell this from this, but, you

know

Mr. EGGLESTON. There are a whole slew of those cables and don't they all deal with discussions between [deleted] and the Agency within the Agency about whether or not they should accept these—the assistance from [deleted] for the Contras, for the Nicaraguan Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That's why I refer you to [deleted] where it is clarified by [deleted] what they are talking about, which is they are

not talking about anything.

Mr. EGGLESTON. But you would agree with me this first cable seems to indicate there have been past requests and this entire series of cables is arising in the context of [deleted] now responding to past requests by the Agency for assistance to the Contras; is that fair?

Mr. Clarridge. It appears to say that.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Are you referring—you keep directing my attention to a cable. Are you referring to 19-3?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Paragraph 1—the second half of paragraph 1 is the reference to which you have been directing my attention; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. Right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. It reads as follows: [deleted] "foresees these being undertaken on direct basis between [deleted] involved, with [deleted]"—that's the CIA?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. —"offering behind the scenes advice of where to plug in and what assistance would be truly useful. However [deleted] remains open to suggestions for other approaches."

Isn't this just an explanation of how the assistance is going to be provided? This isn't an explanation of who is soliciting the aid? It's

an explanation of how it's going to get there?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Mr. Eggleston, it became very clear when I went to [deleted] that [deleted] were not offering assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance. Now if they had offered it to the Director or somebody else before, maybe, but I don't know that. But when I got to [deleted], neither asked for any assistance, they did not offer any

assistance to the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance.

What they said, which seemed to track with what [deleted] finally got out of them in this particular cable, is that they had been—they had had a request to them from [deleted] which they refused to identify that wanted assistance from [deleted]. [Deleted] was thinking about providing this assistance, but it would have to be paid for, which, as I said before, I mentioned to [deleted] that there wasn't any [deleted] with any money that wasn't tied up in—by some other legislation here in the United States that would be available to pay [deleted] for whatever they might give them.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Mr. Clarridge, is it your recollection that all these cables and all this discussion relates to a cash deal between

the Contras and [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. Nothing to do with a cash deal between [de-

leted] and the Contras.

Mr. EGGLESTON. I am just not—I guess I am not understanding you. You indicated that this initiative all dealt with [deleted] being willing to provide to [deleted] weapons that [deleted] would pay for?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Didn't even know for sure whether it was weapons, backpacks, shoes, or whatever. What I am saying to you, Mr. Eggleston, is that I think there was a misunderstanding or there was a change in [deleted] position from January 1984 until you begin to see this particular cable I have drawn your attention to and the time when I arrived in [deleted].

Mr. Eggleston. Well——

Mr. Clarridge. That there was apparently the Director, at least, believed that [deleted] were prepared to offer some assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance. And at a certain point in time, apparently [deleted] thought so also. It became very clear, however, by the time this cable arrived in Washington that what we were talking about was no longer an offer by [deleted] to the Nicaraguan Resistance. It was that they were prepared to enter into a bilateral relationship between two sovereign governments. And that was certainly reinforced by the time I got to [deleted]. More than that, more than that, the Director had already decided prior to any trip to [deleted], after I think consultation with Secretary Shultz, that even if [deleted] offered anything, we would not accept it.

Mr. Cohen. Mr. Chairman, could the counsel inquire about the

exhibit 19-4?

Mr. EGGLESTON. I think I asked a few questions about 19-4 at the very beginning of this line of questioning.

Mr. Cohen. Paragraph 3?

Mr. EGGLESTON. Yes. I asked him about that. I have been struggling since then.

Nineteen-four was the memorandum from Casey to McFarlane? Mr. Clarridge. Which I never saw until one of these depositions.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And this is the memorandum, and, indeed, this memorandum takes place kind of in the middle of this first series of cables prior to your trip and it indicates at least Mr. Casey believes that you were exploring an alternative of the procurement of assistance to the Contras from [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is what I have said, that I think that he believed that and whether he believed it on the basis of something

he was told by [deleted] or what, I cannot say. Mr. EGGLESTON. Mr. Clarridge, look at 19-5.

First sentence, this is a cable actually from [deleted], I guess, indicates you got a copy of it. "[Deleted] has now secured the necessary endorsements to proceed with the discussions on [deleted] assistance in Central America."

Again, the subject of this cable, the subject: [Deleted] Assistance to Nicaraguan Project. This is only a couple of days after the

memorandum which is exhibit 19-4.

Doesn't this indicate that you have now received the endorsements to proceed with discussions with [deleted] about providing assistance, about [deleted] providing assistance to the Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. Because—I mean, if everybody wrote cables perfectly accurately, all the time, I would agree with you. But just because [deleted] who hasn't got a clue about what was going on in Central America happens to subject his cable, support to the Nicaraguan project doesn't mean anything. It was certainly clear by the time [deleted] was received that what [deleted] were talking about was a bilateral, sovereign nation to sovereign nation assistance.

Mr. Eggleston. What was the second sovereign nation?

Mr. Clarridge. They never told us. We only guessed that it could be possibly two countries most likely.

Mr. Eggleston. So what you are telling me is that none of these

cables have anything to do with the Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I didn't say that. I am saying there was a belief at a certain point in time that [deleted] had—were offering assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance. Before I ever went out to [deleted], it was very clear that that isn't what they were talking about. And when I got out there, that became patently clear.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Look at 19-7, will you? This is from [deleted] to the Director. Paragraph one says that [deleted] welcomed [deleted] visit, that is you, and opines he should be able to come up with a "modest but reasonable amount of equipment, plus a good bilateral

[deleted] training program in short order."

Again, this cable is labeled, subject: [Deleted] Assistance to the Nicaraguan Project. Doesn't this cable indicate that [deleted] are going to provide equipment and a training program in connection

with [deleted]—excuse me, with the Nicaraguan project?

Mr. Clarridge. Let me try at something that is not the best way to do business, but people tend to copy the heads on the cables that they are receiving. You will notice that in the cable you have just referred me to that Director 894326 is referenced by [deleted]. And

now if you go to 894326, and look at the subject line, it is [deleted]

assistance to Nicaraguan project.

Many of us are like lemmings, we just follow what was said before. So you cannot read into subject lines and all of this, that that necessarily meant support to the Nicaraguan project.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Clarridge, let me ask you to direct your attention to 19-18, which is the very last cable. It is a cable drafted

by you. You do not have the same subject heading.

It is dated 11 May 1984. It is after you have returned from the trip. The prior cables indicate that there is an additional discussion. Going back—going on after you get back about whether or not we should permit this assistance to take place. This cable reads as follows: "Current furor here over the Nicaraguan project urges that we postpone taking [deleted] up on their offer of assistance."

This is you writing a cable deciding not to go forward with assistance, and you are referring to the furor over the Nicaraguan

project?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Is it your testimony that this assistance had nothing to do with the Nicaraguan project?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. And I will explain why. The furor was the

mining. So it was a big hullabaloo going on about that.

And a decision was made—not mine—may have been an interagency decision or it may have been Casey's decision, that we didn't want to be—or we could not be seen, the administration could not be seen as being beholden to [deleted] in any way.

In this case, we didn't even want [deleted] mucking around in providing bilateral assistance [deleted]. And that is what this says.

Because in the end that is all they were offering. If they got paid for it.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Mr. Clarridge, is it your testimony that this cable is calling off a deal between [deleted] that we were otherwise uninvolved in?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. There was no deal.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me make sure I understand this. Is it your testimony that [deleted] were going to provide assistance to the Contras [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, never came up.

Mr. EGGLESTON. So it is your position that these entire series of cables have nothing to do with [deleted] providing assistance to the Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I didn't say that. I said that in the beginning there was apparently an impression that the Director had and maybe others, maybe even myself, I can't recall, that [deleted] in January 1984 were prepared to offer something to the Nicarguan Resistance. It became very clear as time went by that that was not the case.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Let me just summarize so I make sure I understand. At the time this initiative began—and I think you said it began—initiative may be the wrong word—that it began in January of 1984. There were discussions involving [deleted] and various people about [deleted] and the Contras. That is how you indicated the whole thing started?

Mr. CLARRIDGE, No.

Mr. EGGLESTON. There was a briefing of them on the situation in

Central America?

Mr. Clarridge. Excuse me. What I said was that there was a meeting between the Director, [deleted], and I assumed [deleted] was present in the Director's office. I don't know what they were talking about. I was called up there and the Director asked me to give [deleted], a briefing on what was going on on the ground in Central America.

OK? That is all I know.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And it is your testimony then that the beginning cables in this series are erroneous because someone has gotten the misimpression that [deleted] want to provide assistance to the Contras? You go to [deleted], find out that isn't true.

Mr. Clarridge. We knew that before I went to [deleted].

Mr. EGGLESTON. And all of these cables then are not dealing with [deleted]. All these cables sometime during the middle of the initiative are not actually dealing with [deleted] assistance to the Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct. But we were—and maybe we were under a mistaken impression from the beginning that [deleted] were offering assistance to the Contras or perhaps in the inter-

vening period, [deleted] changed their mind.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And it is your testimony that the reason that the CIA decides not to proceed with this has nothing to do with the fact that [deleted] are interested in providing assistance to the Contras and you don't want to mix up those [deleted] in the same oper-

ation? That is not what this had to do with?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. I think the final cable here that you just drew my attention to reflects the fact that because of the furor over the Nicaraguan project and the mining, the administration or the interagency group, or whomever, decided that it wouldn't be a good idea to have [deleted] mucking around in Central America even on bilateral relations, in giving any kind of assistance down there.

Mr. EGGLESTON. What was the name of the country to which [de-

leted] were going to send the aid?

Mr. Clarridge. They refused to tell us, and we only guessed it was probably [deleted]. But that was a guess.

Chairman Hamilton. We will take a 10-minute recess.

[Recess.]

Chairman Hamilton. The joint committees will resume, and Mr. Eggleston.

Mr. Eggleston. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, I'm within a couple of minutes of being done. I just want to ask you, because I think maybe my questions got imprecise or something, could you restate for me again what it was that you think these cables are about and what occurred that gave the impression to someone that these cables were about assistance to the Contras from [deleted], and what is it that led you to conclude that that is not ultimately what [deleted] were interested in?

Mr. Clarridge. The way I read this cable traffic and the way I remember it, somebody in the Agency, I think, at least the Director, took away from that January meeting with [deleted] that they were offering assistance to the Democratic Resistance. Some of that

cable traffic coming in from [deleted] after that meeting, after [deleted] had gone back, continued that far, that we were talking

about [deleted] support for the Democratic Resistance.

However, by the time you get to [deleted], it is very clear that they are not talking about that, and then after I went to [deleted], it became abundantly clear that they were not talking about assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance.

Moreover, a decision had been taken before I went to [deleted] that we would neither ask for any assistance nor would we accept any assistance from [deleted] to the Democratic Resistance, and that was reinforced in a cable that was sent to me out there.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Cable no. [deleted] is a cable dated March 24, 1984. This is the cable that you claim makes it clear that [deleted]

are not interested in assisting the Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It tells here what they are—it states here what

they are prepared to do.

Mr. Eggleston. And what it states is that they are prepared to

provide training and equipment? And your explanation——

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Just a minute. It says they are prepared to provide training and equipment. He foresees these being undertaken on a direct basis between [deleted] involved with CIA offering behind-the-scenes advice, I guess, on where to plug in and what assistance would be truly useful.

Mr. EGGLESTON. But it is your testimony that CIA did not know

what [deleted] they were talking about?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I cannot speak for [deleted], whether he knew. All I know is that when I got to [deleted] and this issue came up and they raised it in the same context they were talking about one country or two countries, and we never could figure out what they were and they wouldn't tell us. We guessed that it was [deleted]. It could have been [deleted].

Mr. Eggleston. But it is your testimony that that assistance was

only going to go to those countries, not to the Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. That is what I was told.

Mr. EGGLESTON. And when 3 days later Mr. Casey sends a memo to Mr. McFarlane indicating that the CIA is exploring the possibility of obtaining assistance to the Contras from [deleted], that is just erroneous?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It would seem so. Before I even made my trip, a decision was taken that we would not ask or, if offered, would not accept assistance from [deleted] for the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Mr. Clarridge, I started this by asking you questions about your deposition testimony. One thing is plain from this discussion, that there were enormous discussions early on within the Agency about third-country assistance.

Mr. Clarridge. That is not correct, to my knowledge, Mr. Eggleston. There were not enormous discussions. In fact, I can hardly recall any discussions that you could label as serious discussions

except for this [deleted] business.

Furthermore, there were not any real serious discussions within the RIG about whether there might be third-country assistance.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Exhibit 19-2 specifically refers to a conversation that you had with the Director about assistance for the Nicaraguan

project and that is what led up to the rest of the cables and your trip, correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. The one where he asked me to send the cable to

McMahon?

Mr. Eggleston. Yes.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, he still thought that was the case.

Mr. EGGLESTON. So you had discussions about assistance to the Nicaraguan project as of that time and you were asked in your deposition whether there were discussions—

Mr. Clarridge. I simply did not recall at the time.

Mr. EGGLESTON. Had you forgotten this entire incident?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I had. I didn't remember any of this cable traffic. All I knew, and as I so deposed is that when I went out to [deleted], I did not ask for any assistance. I wasn't offered any assistance.

Futhermore, a decision had been taken that we would not ask or receive. I had not had a chance to review this cable traffic, and I'm sorry I can't remember it. For you, all these events may take on an enormity that they certainly don't for somebody who's working on this thing day to day. That is just the way it is.

Mr. Eggleston. So as of the time of your deposition, it is your

testimony you had simply forgotten this incident?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. Eggleston. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Buck.

Mr. Buck. Good morning, Mr. Clarridge.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Good morning.

Mr. Buck. Let's put some things in context here. You have been asked a lot of questions about your memory on certain detailed events. How long ago did the HAWK shipment occur?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. In November, 1985.

Mr. Buck. Around 20-months ago?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Buck. Were you concerned about other projects during this time?

Mr. Clarridge. Oh, yes, many. That I guess is the point I was trying to make a little bit before, that is because of this particular subject that everybody is talking about here, these seem to be large events. That particular operation was a nickel-and-dime thing. I was doing probably 20 other things on the given days that I was also trying to get clearances. This was no particularly big thing in my experience.

Mr. Buck. Approximately how long ago was your visit to [delet-

ed]?

Mr. Clarridge. The [deleted] visit was in April, 1984, so that is

over 3 years ago.

Mr. Buck. And again, you have been asked questions about your deposition, your testimony about [deleted]. Did you have the opportunity to review the cables concerning [deleted] before your deposition?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I did not and I simply did not do it, and I

had forgotten that such cable traffic existed.

Mr. Buck. OK. I would like to put something—some testimony that was read to you earlier in context, Colonel North's testimony.

You were told, I believe, that it was North's testimony that he told you that the cargo was weapons before the Deputy Director hit the roof. I would like you to look at lines 937 through 946—let me find the exhibit number here. I believe it is exhibit 6, page 43 of exhibit

Mr. Clarridge. 6-A and B, yes. Mr. Buck. This would be 6-A.

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, page 43. What line are you speaking about, please?

Mr. Buck. I'll read lines 937 through 943.

Question by Mr. Nields: "In other words, you are saying that you told Mr. Clarridge what the real cargo was prior to the time the Deputy Director got angry and

insisted on a Finding."

Answer by North: "I'm not saying that for sure. I'm saying that is the way it may well have happened. I do recall, although I do not recall the time and date, confirming to Mr. Clarridge when asked, the cargo is not oil-drilling equipment; the cargo is HAWKs. OK. Now, I cannot tell you, Mr. Nields, here at this point, a good while after the fact, when that point was."

Is this also your recollection?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right. And I think I've already stated that today. It may have been, as he said, after McMahon hit the roof. I didn't know McMahon hit the roof. But anyway, I cannot recall specifically.

Mr. Buck. Do you have any recollection of when North told you or confirmed to you that the November shipment contained weap-

ons?

Mr. Clarridge. I can only give you a guess, and that is if Charlie Allen is correct that he showed me [deleted] sometime around the 26th, that clearly indicated that at least weapons had gone into Iran, then I'm quite sure that I very likely said something to North, asked him a question. I don't know whether I asked him on the 26th or the 27th or whenever. I can't say.

Mr. Buck. I would like to read you another part of Colonel North's transcript that he stated during these public hearings which isn't in the exhibit book. Do you have Colonel North's testi-

mony there?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Buck. Page 183 of that testimony—line 4109.

Mr. Nields. And then it says, "cargo must be listed as machine parts, spares for oil industry."

Mr. North. Right.

Mr. Nields. That is Mr. Clarridge telling you?

Mr. North. Again, I told you that I had originally dissembled with the Agency. In my initial contacts with the Israelis we had agreed that we would call these machine parts for the oil fields or whatever, that we specifically talked about when in my discussions with the Israelis way back on the 17th or 18th that was the agreement we had come to.

So I had told people at the CIA that.

Mr. NIELDS. I understand that.

Mr. North. You are asking me if I by now had told Mr. Clarridge the truth about what is on the cargo and I cannot tell you, counsel, whether it was that I apprised him of it.

Mr. Buck. Mr. North used the word "dissembled" with the Agency and later on states that he doesn't know when he told the Agency the truth. What is "dissembled"?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, dissemble is to not tell the truth.

Mr. Buck. Is that your recollection?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. But I think this incident here, if anybody is interested in what we are talking about here, is not quite like it appears. What was going on at the time was the problem with the aircraft in [deleted] just had come in from Tel Aviv. As I have said before today the aircraft was attempting to obtain various clearances using the normal commercial airline method during which it variously described its cargo as machinery, medical stores, et cetera, which was confusing the whole clearance process. What I was telling North here was they have got to describe the cargo as to what it is. They can't keep talking about medical equipment and machinery.

Mr. Buck. Which American Government official was primarily responsible for the management of the November shipment of

HAWK parts to Iran?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I am not sure I understand the question. The

shipment of HAWK parts—do you mean of—— Mr. Buck. What I am trying to determine here is whether the operation was being run out of the CIA or out of the NSC.

Mr. Clarridge. I think it was going on in two places.

Mr. Buck. Was the CIA's role more one of being a facilitator or did you have operational control over the operation?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. We were simply facilitators, in the first instance for the clearances and in the second in providing an airline.

Mr. Buck. At any time from November 21, 1985 to November 27, 1985, did you have a need to know what the aircraft was carrying?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I didn't, frankly.

Mr. Buck. What was your function during that period of time? Mr. Clarridge. I was simply facilitating in two areas, one—well actually clearance procedures involving several countries and in arranging for the aircraft once the decision had been made to use the proprietary and even there I had a very small role.

Mr. Buck. I would like to read a section from your deposition, Mr. Clarridge, which I believe was just handed to you, on page 49. I

am sorry, page 49, not in the exhibit book. Line 2.

Question: But you don't remember there came a time where North tells you that it is any missiles?

Answer: I cannot say that.

Question: Do you recall any discussion with him where you discussed with him the fact that it was—that he had told you that it was oil-drilling equipment but in fact it was not, that it was weapons?

Answer: I just don't know whether we ever had a discussion of that or not.

Question: Would it have upset you to have been lied to about the contents of the aircraft?

Answer: Well, it was compartmentation, that is compartmentation, you have a need to know only so much.

Is that your testimony here today also?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, that is correct on that issue.

Mr. Buck. During November of 1985 what was Ed Juchniewicz's position at the CIA?

Mr. Clarridge. He was the Associate Deputy Director for Oper-

Mr. Buck. And during that same time period John McMahon was the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. Buck. I would like to read a section of Mr. McMahon's deposition, exhibit 8. This is a conversation between Mr. Juchniewicz and Mr. McMahon Monday, November 25, 1985. On page 95 of that deposition. Starting with line 8.

And then Monday morning I came in and he said hey, do you know what those guys did? And I said what guys? And he said Secord. Now that is the name I heard and I said what was that? And he said they used our proprietary to send over some oil supplies. And I said goddamn it, I told you not to get involved.

Is that your recollection also of Mr. McMahon's reaction?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, because as I have stated here today, I had only a single conversation dealing with this issue and, as I have said, that was in the early evening I believe of November the 25th in which he said to me, he called me on the phone, wasn't agitated at all and talked about it doesn't make much difference what is on that aircraft, whether it is military supplies or oil-drilling parts, they are embargoed, and I think we may need a Finding.

Mr. Buck. As of Monday morning November 25, according to Mr. McMahon's deposition, he believes that they sent over some oil supplies. That is the point I wanted to make, and that is consistent

with what you believed also?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Buck. Do you remember a meeting at the Central Intelligence Agency which included Charles Allen, Colonel North, and yourself on Saturday, November 23, 1985?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I guess you could call it a meeting. They were

sort of in and out all day long.

Mr. Buck. What representations did Colonel North make at that meeting concerning the cargo to be carried to Iran?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Certainly by Saturday it was oil-drilling spare

parts. He may have even said that on Friday.

Mr. Buck. I would like you to turn to exhibit 7, and I would like to read you something from Charles Allen's deposition. Starting with page 161.

Question: At what point was a representation made to you about the cargo to be

carried by this aircraft, whosoever aircraft it might be?

Mr. Allen: I can't recall specifically but Colonel North stated emphatically that this was oil-drilling equipment that was being sent into Iran. It was related to the meetings occurring in Geneva. I believe in my presence and Mr. Clarridge's he made a call to the Deputy National Security Adviser, at the time, Admiral Poindexter to get Admiral Poindexter's endorsement to proceed with this activity.

Question: I am sorry, Admiral Poindexter or Mr. McFarlane?

Answer: I think he may have called both. He made a number of all and the control of the con

Answer: I think he may have called both. He made a number of calls while I was there.

Question: Was Colonel North actually present and were you present when Colonel North actually said that this was oil-drilling equipment?

Answer: Yes, I heard him say that. Question: You heard him say that?

Answer: Yes, I will testify to that and I will testify again, I heard him say that.

Is that consistent with your recollection of those events?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, although I can't say precisely whether it

was on Saturday or on Friday.

Mr. Buck. Is it fair to say, Mr. Clarridge, that you suspected the November shipment to Iran may have contained something other than oil-drilling equipment and that you knew it contained weapons at some point between November 20th and November 27th. 1985?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes.

Mr. Buck. Did Colonel North, Admiral Poindexter, Director Casey, or Mr. McFarlane ever ask you to destroy or alter documents related to the Iranian initiative?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Not at all.

Mr. Buck. Did you ever discuss your testimony with any of those individuals in any way?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Buck. This committee has several exhibits, several cables at exhibit 19 which were discussed with you earlier, discussing the possibility of a CIA approaching [deleted] to raise funds for the Contras. What were the reasons behind such a consideration?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I think it had to be that there was the fear that we might not have enough equipment as the money might run out towards the beginning of the summer, and so, looking around for possible support. But I think there was a broader issue than just that, that there had been from the beginning an interest not just in the CIA, but in the interagency forum to get as many other countries involved in supporting not just the Nicaraguan Resistance, but the Central American democracies in any way that we could.

And so I think it was more in that context.

Mr. Buck. But you are clear, Mr. Clarridge, that it was an offer

from [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. All I can say is that it appears to have been an offer from [deleted] rather than a solicitation. I was not present when this conversation took place between—and I can only recall that the—Mr. Casey, [deleted], and I presume [deleted] but I can't even be sure he was present, but I would imagine he was there because that is usually the way it works.

Mr. Buck. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Chairman Hamilton. We will begin now with the questions from the principal questioners. They will have 20 minutes of time.

Mr. Stokes is recognized.

Mr. Stokes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, if I understand you correctly, in talking with Mr. Eggleston this morning, you indicated that your testimony here today is different from your testimony in the deposition that was taken of you some time ago.

Mr. Clarridge. I wouldn't say different, Mr. Stokes. I would say more fulsome, because I have had a chance to review the cable traffic which I had not reviewed prior to giving my deposition.

Mr. Stokes. On those parts then of the deposition where you have made it more fulsome, in the absence of your having read the cable traffic, I take it your testimony would be the same here today as it was in your deposition?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. STOKES. Is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. STOKES. So I think the record ought to also reflect the fact that at the time you were deposed, that the cable traffic was also not available to this committee, is that a fair statement?

Mr. Clarridge, Yes.

Mr. Stokes. Let me ask you this: You mentioned a little earlier that at the time you went to [deleted] you already knew that [deleted] were not offering aid; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. Aid to whom?

Mr. Stokes. To the Nicaraguan Resistance. The Contras. To

whomever.

Mr. Clarridge. What became very clear shortly before I went out to [deleted] is that they-[deleted] were talking about assistance with [deleted] not with the Nicaraguan Resistance. That proved, indeed, to be the point when I arrived out there.

Mr. Stokes. What was your purpose as [deleted] Latin American

Division to go to [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, actually, there were three purposes, probably. One of them was Casey wanted me to go out there and brief [deleted] on Central America, and that never turned out to happen out there. Deleted.

Mr. Stokes. Now, why you [deleted], as opposed to [deleted]?
Mr. Clarridge. Well, because those subjects that I have just mentioned to you, Mr. Stokes, have to do with Latin America mainly.

Mr. STOKES. [Deleted]? Mr. Clarridge. [Deleted].

Mr. Stokes. Let me move to another subject.

You told us that the caption on exhibit 19-5 was misleading. You indicated it was written by someone, [deleted], who didn't know about the [deleted] matter. Now, I ask you to look at—look at this exhibit 19-5. And where it indicates at the bottom portion of it that the writer of the cable coordinated with you?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct. Mr. Stokes. All right? Mr. CLARRIDGE. Right.

Mr. Stokes. Then earlier in this series of cables, exhibit 19-2, you are the one who writes that particular cable; aren't you?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. Stokes. Don't you use the caption there "[deleted] Assistance to the Nicaraguan Project"?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. STOKES. So what is the difference when you use it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. What I am saying, Mr. Stokes, is that when I sent the message out at the request of the Director about McMahon possibly meeting with [deleted], it is clear at that time that both he and myself understood that there was an "offer" from [deleted], and I presume this offer occurred at the meeting with the Director in January 1984. What I have said here today is that I believed that—that the Director's observation that there was an offer was in error or [deleted] changed their mind and were no longer prepared to offer anything to the Democratic Resistance by the time [deleted], as sent, reinforced on the occasion of my arrival in [deleted].

Mr. Stokes. All right. But in terms of this caption that you use, "[deleted] Assistance to Nicaraguan Project," is that misleading?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I didn't say it was misleading. What I said was that you will notice that in several cases in response to a question by Mr. Eggleston about the use of a subject line which is repeated over and over again, we as cable writers are often like lemmings. We simply take the easiest way out. We are writing a cable based on a previous cable and so we use that subject line.

We are not as accurate as we should be.

Mr. STOKES. Tell me this. When you used the term "Nicaraguan project," you are referring, aren't you, to the CIA's covert action program to assist the Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Stokes. Isn't that what you are referring to?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. Yes. I believe so.

Mr. Stokes. Correct. Now, you also indicated to us this morning that it was concern about the mining that led the Agency to reject [deleted] connection; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I believe the timing is about right on that. I can't—I am guessing that it was the mining episode, because that

seemed to have blown up in April.

Mr. STOKES. Tell us why you would even go to [deleted] during

this furor over it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It hadn't blown up yet by the time I left, I don't think.

Mr. Stokes. When did the mining situation occur in Nicaragua? Mr. Clarridge. Well, the minings—[deleted]? Or when did it blow up?

Mr. Stokes. When did the situation blow up?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I think it blew up some time in April. I think it became public in April. The letter from Senator Goldwater to the Director may have been May. I can't recall precisely.

Mr. Stokes. And you went to [deleted] when?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I believe Mr. Eggleston said I went between the ninth and the 13th or the 10th and the 13th, something like that, of April.

Mr. Stokes. Of April, right?

All right. Now, you also indicated this morning that it was not clear which [deleted] would buy the arms from [deleted], right?

That is, you didn't know?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't know. As I said before this morning, I didn't know whether it was arms. They kept talking about training and equipment. They would not reveal which [deleted] had asked for this.

Mr. Stokes. Now, in exhibit 19-4, in Director Casey's memo to McFarlane, he indicates in there that the country was [deleted]. You were going to go to [deleted]. Isn't it logical that he would

have told you since you were going to [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, there is a certain amount of logic in it, yes. But, you know, logic doesn't always prevail and I did not know it was [deleted] or that he thought it was [deleted]. It was my guess it was either [deleted] when they raised it in [deleted].

Mr. Stokes. Let me ask you to turn your exhibit book to exhibit

DRC-31.

This is a page from Oliver North's notebooks. This particular page is dated January 5th, 1985. You will see there that it shows that at 1840—6:40 p.m.—there was a call from Clarridge. Then it says, "200 T.—"—I presume that is tons—"of arms in route to—"—and it says [deleted] I presume further that that is [deleted].

Then it says, "-from [deleted]." Below that it says "David Duncan." Now, David Duncan is an arms dealer; is he not?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't know. Mr. Stokes. You do not know?

Also, it says on this exhibit, "off loading 70 tons tonight."
First, let me ask you, do you recall that telephone call with

Oliver North?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I don't. I don't recall it. All I can do is guess at this point as to what this might—it may have been that we had received an intelligence report and also you have to be careful here. He may have called me and referred to something and asked me to check on something. So I don't know which way that could be. But in any event, this may have come from an intelligence report that I either called him up about or that I was asked to check into. I simply can't tell you, Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Stokes. The question is why in January of 1985, would you be talking to Oliver North about shipments of arms to Central

Mr. Clarridge. Well, it could well be that this was something coming out of Europe. And at that time I was in the European Division. On the basis of these few words, it is very difficult for me to reconstruct what it could be.

Mr. Stokes. You think it's possible coming out of [deleted] into

Europe and then over to [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I'm sorry, Mr. Stokes. I can research it for you, if you wish, by pulling up the cable traffic and seeing if we can find it. All I can do is guess.

Mr. Stokes. Well, any light you can shed on it, we would certain-

ly appreciate.

Mr. Clarridge. I will certainly do that.

Mr. Stokes. Now, of course, by that time, however, you are now the—you are no longer [deleted]; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct. I have been Chief of the Europe-

an Division since the first of October or thereabouts, 1984.

Mr. Stokes. Now let me ask you to turn to exhibit DRC-19-19. This is a Central Intelligence Agency memorandum dissemination report dated February 5, 1985. As I understand it, Mr. Clarridge, memoranda disseminations are one of the ways the CIA distributes sensitive intelligence reports to a limited number of people. This one went to 11 people in the government who were identified by name. The title of the report is [deleted] Support for Nicaraguan Armed Opposition Sandino Revolutionary Front.

The FRS is Mr. Pastora's group; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I believe that was the designation at that time.

Mr. Stokes. Now this report goes on to say that [deleted]—in paragraph 2—that "During January 1985, a ship is scheduled to deliver 200,000 pounds of military supplies from [deleted] to the Sandino Revolutionary Front (FRS)."

Then it goes on in paragraph 3 to say, [deleted].

Now I am rather struck by the juxtaposition of this exhibit with exhibit DRC-31. Apparently you called Colonel North in January 1985 or he called you and then you tell him about arms shipments from [deleted], according to this. Also, apparently in January, [deleted] Mr. Pastora is getting assistance from [deleted]. So the question is, do these two exhibits refer to the same shipment of arms from [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. It would seem so.

Mr. Stokes. Tell us how you knew about it.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. This kind of thing gets disseminated to—inside the building to a variety of people. I assume that I saw it or I was called by Colonel North, and he asked did I have any information about it. Why he would call me, I don't quite know. In any event, I

either checked on it for him, or I told him about it.

Now there's one thing that is a little peculiar here. I just wonder, do you know whether we ever had any confirmation this report was correct? Or is this just, you know, we put out a lot of intelligence that, you know, sometimes is right and sometimes wrong. Have we ever—have you ever inquired as to whether this report was confirmed from any other source?

Mr. Stokes. That is something I cannot verify. Mr. Clarridge. I think we ought to do that.

Mr. Stokes. You might be able to shed light on that. Mr. Clarridge. Yes. Yes. I think we ought to do that.

Mr. Stokes. Tell us this then, Mr. Clarridge. You stated pretty emphatically you didn't know of any [deleted] assistance to the Contras, and so the question would be, why were you calling Colonel North, or what were you calling him about if you did not know anything about the [deleted] Contra link?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I think we have an apple and an orange here. I cannot tell you why I called him or replied to his telephone

call in this particular note that we have just looked at.

The other question you asked me, when I say that I had no knowledge of [deleted] assistance to the Democratic Resistance, I

didn't, to my knowledge, until you drew this to my attention.

Mr. Stokes. All right. Let me refer you to another exhibit, DRC-27. This exhibit is a page from Colonel North's notes, dated November 10, 1984, which notes at 12:30: "Call from Clarridge. Keep mouth shut. Never mention North. Advertise now. Heavy buys raising questions."

Then it goes on and on. Can you tell us what that telephone call

is about?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I'm sorry, Mr. Stokes. I can't. It doesn't seem to make much sense. Why would I call North and say never mention North?

Mr. STOKES. And also keep mouth shut?

Mr. Clarridge. Keep mouth shut. I'm sorry. I can't——

Mr. Stokes. No recollection of it?

Mr. Clarridge. No. When is this? November, 1984?

Mr. Stokes. November 10, 1984.

Mr. Clarridge. I'm sorry. I am not trying to be obstructionist. I

simply don't recall.

Mr. STOKES. Let me refer you to another exhibit. DRC-28. This is also from Colonel North's notes. This one is dated December 2d, 1984. It contains a reference to [deleted], who it notes is your Deputy, and says: "Re: KMS"—which is Mr. David Walker's firm.

It goes on to say, "active in [deleted]" then "Saladin," which is another Walker firm. Are you familiar with these Walker firms?

Mr. Clarridge. No. The only light I can shed on this, from time to time Colonel North would call me about what I knew about—I think it was particularly some firms operating out of the Channel Islands. And I don't know whether this is the same group or not. And did I know anything about them as far as their reliability was concerned and that kind of thing. I suspect that that is what this refers to if indeed they are one of those British—I don't know what you call them, mercenary companies, but they do training and that kind of thing.

Mr. Stokes. Now in this specific exhibit, is this as much light as

you can shed on it for us?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes.

Mr. Stokes. Let me refer you to another exhibit, DRC-30. That contains the December 27th, 1984, notes of Oliver North. You will see that it says there "Discussion with Clarridge. Activities in Central America with the Brits."

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. I think this probably refers—he had a couple of discussions with me about whether they could get any—and I think it goes back to this—these companies, the Saladin or whatever that is. I'm not specifically familiar with it. He was interested in what they could do in the way of helping train the Democratic Resistance.

And as I said before, he talked to me about their reliability and all of that. He did the same thing in connection with some boats that he was interested in and whether they should use those for some particular operations. I think that was Americans involved in that particular case, and I urged him not to have Americans be involved down in Central America doing that kind of thing.

Mr. Stokes. Let me ask you this specific question. Colonel North and Admiral Poindexter have testified that David Walker was an official of both KMS and Saladin and arranged certain sabotage operations in Nicaragua funded by either Mr. Calero or by General

Secord.

And the authority for these operations was acquired by Colonel North and given by Admiral Poindexter. So now my question to you is, were you involved in any way with this type of action?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I was not.

Mr. Stokes. Thank you, Mr. Clarridge. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Before turning to Mr. McCollum, I will advise members we will conclude the morning session after Mr. McCollum's questions, and we will come back at 2:00 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. McCollum, you are recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. McCollum. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, good morning. Mr. Clarridge. Good morning.

Mr. McCollum. Could you repeat for me what your official title is at the present time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I am [deleted].

Mr. McCollum. And how long have you been in that position?

Mr. Clarridge. Since mid-February, 1986.

Mr. McCollum. Who do you report to in the chain of command

Mr. Clarridge. To the Deputy Director for Operations, Clair

Mr. McCollum. Is he the same person you reported to when you were the Chief of the European Division?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. McCollum. So this is all under operations, right?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. McCollum. I just wanted to square that away.

Admiral Poindexter testified that in the process of the Iranian initiative beginning to be created and the findings that were made, that while the Findings directed the operation to be conducted by the CIA, that he in essence put Colonel North on loan to Director Casey and that it was Director Casey's wish that Colonel North run this Iranian arms hostage, whatever, initiative that we have been all investigating.

In essence, the way I gather from Admiral Poindexter's testimony, this was a CIA operation, but Director Casey chose to use Colo-

nel North instead of choosing to use the Agency.

Do you have any knowledge about that? Mr. Clarridge. I don't. That is not my perception of the situation at all.

Mr. McCollum. What is your perception?

Mr. Clarridge. In Jaunary or-in January, mid-January, 198let me get my dates right, 1986, at the time of Finding, although I was at that moment engaged with the Director in discussions on improving the Agency's counterterrorism posture abilities, there were certain aspects to the Iran initiative that involved Ghorbanifar, that involved terrorism. Ghorbanifar claimed, and was later proved correct, to have had good information on a terrorist event, on an attempted terrorist event, [deleted], last year.

In the context of that, it was very clear to me that the Director preferred that the Agency run the entire Iranian operation. And I have so told the Tower Commission when they asked me on this

particular issue.

Mr. McCollum. This comes from discussions you had with Direc-

tor Casey?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. The Director would have preferred that the Agency run the entire operation rather than parsing it with the Agency only running the logistics. However, there was no support below the Director for this largely because Ghorbanifer could not pass a polygraph and, therefore, those below the Director involved in the Iran operation were opposed to working the operation with Ghorbanifar and, therefore, he didn't have any operation.

Mr. McCollum. You are talking about below the Director, you are talking about in the Agency itself, below the Director, of Mr.

McMahon and Mr. George, in particular?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. And on down.

Mr. McCollum. They opposed the CIA being more involved in it

than they were? Is that what you are telling me?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. They did not want to—I cannot say that they didn't want to be involved at all. What I am saying is they did not want to run the operation, the Ghorbanifar piece of the operation. In other words, which, in effect, is they didn't want to run the operation. Because if you didn't work the operation from Ghorbanifar, you didn't have any operation.

Mr. McCollum. That's how it got left to North? Is that what you

are saying?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct. I am not saying that North himself didn't want to hang onto it. The Director, certainly his intention and his wish was that the Agency run the whole thing.

Mr. McCollum. Did he ever discuss it with you, your running it? Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I think North—if North had had his druthers that's the way North would have liked to have gone. But it just wasn't in the cards. I mean it didn't work that way. I was trying to something on the counterterrorism side and you just couldn't-

Mr. McCollum. Why do you think North had his druthers this

way? Why do you think he wanted you to run it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, because we worked together over the years. We knew each other. You know.

Mr. McCollum. He never told you that directly, though?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No.

Mr. McCollum. And Director Casey never actually said that to you?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. McCollum. But he did say he preferred to have the Agency run the whole thing?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That's right.

Mr. McCollum. Including the Ghorbanifar connection, et cetera?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That's right.

Mr. McCollum. And the fellows in the Agency below that opposed it because of Ghorbanifar? And therefore it wound up in this split thing with North running it and you fellows doing the logistics support for it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. McCollum. It's a very confusing procession. One of the things that has been puzzling to me about this entire investigation is how we got off on the Enterprise, North, all of that. Was the socalled Enterprise with Secord and using the various setups that were used discussed at all in your presence during this time?

Mr. Clarridge. No. No.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. McCollum, excuse me. I notice the witness is answering a lot of questions with a nod of the head. Mr. Clarridge. Excuse me. Excuse me.

Chairman Hamilton. I think for the purpose of the record it would be very helpful if we always got a yes or no response from you.

Mr. McCollum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That's a good point.

We can't record the nods too well. That's true.

The other day I asked Secretary Weinberger about whether or not he had proposed any alternatives to the Iranian arms initiative from getting our hostages back; and he said he did. He was-actually Senator Sarbanes asked that a couple of days before. Admiral Poindexter said there were no alternatives proposed. I have been curious for some time why we didn't try a rescue operation with the hostages. And I have asked a number of questions to different

witnesses over the period of these hearings. Most of them said we didn't have the intelligence to do it, we couldn't get a fix on them.

There were all kinds of excuses, et cetera.

Are you familiar with any—you were involved with counterterrorism here. I assume you know about it. Were there any alternatives you know about that were proposed for rescuing the hostages and getting them out in some other way other than this Iranian initiative we have been talking about for weeks now?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. If Weinberger is talking about a hostage

rescue operation as what he proposed, that's fine. [Deleted].

Deleted].

Mr. McCollum. Do you have an opinion as to why Mr. Buckley

was kidnapped?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I was not involved in the Near East Division or in terrorism at that time that he was kidnapped, and therefore, if there were special circumstances that might have been connected with it, I'm not aware of them.

I would suggest that somebody like Buckley was just an obvious-

ly good target.

Mr. McCollum. But after the fact we had a lot of problems because of the information we have heard testimony on in closed-door sessions that he had, and I gather that we made an extraordinary effort to try to get him back; is that not correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I have heard that, but I have no first-hand

knowledge on that.

Mr. McCollum. You weren't a participant in that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No.

Mr. McCollum. At one point in his deposition, Mr. George was asked, "How does the hostages"—on page 10—"How does the hostage-location task force interact with the chief of the Near East Division regarding the hostages?"

Answer: "We are talking bureaucracy. You had the same bureaucratic conflict with the hostage-location task force and N.E. that you had beginning in March, 1986, between the [deleted] and N.E."

Is he referring to what you described that ultimately led to this [deleted] that you have, having the task force subsumed into it, I believe is the word you used?

Mr. Clarridge. [Deleted].

Mr. McCollum. So there was a turf battle going on during this time when you first went into this early last year and so on. Is that beginning to get a little reined in or not, do you think the turf battle is beginning to get shaped up?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, we have got a lot of problems.

Mr. McCollum. I would like to reserve the balance of my time. Chairman Hamilton. The gentleman reserves 5 minutes of his time, and the committees will stand in recess until 2:00. We'll begin with Senators Boren and Cohen.

[Whereupon, at 12:05 p.m., the Select Committees recessed, to re-

convene at 2:00 p.m., this same day.]

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Select Committees met, pursuant to recess, at 2:00 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lee H. Hamilton

(chairman of the House Select Committee) and Hon. Daniel K. Inouye (chairman of the Senate Select Committee) presiding.

Chairman Hamilton. The Select Committees will come to order.

The chair recognizes Senator Cohen for 20 minutes.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, how many languages do you speak?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. You ask at the current time?

Mr. Cohen. How many have you spoken in the past?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Really only two. Mr. COHEN. Only two? [Deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. [Deleted] and [deleted].

Mr. Cohen. [Deleted]? [Deleted]? Mr. Clarridge. I can read it.

Mr. Cohen. I am just curious because one thing is evident from your record, that you are a highly skilled individual who obviously enjoys a good reputation with the intelligence community. It just struck me to the extent that you have some background in languages, it takes quite an exercise in memory usually, and I was struck last evening in going through the depositions and I was, I must confess to you, I was going from points of laughter to points of despair as I read over the deposition itself. On practically every single major event that we have been considering, you have virtually no memory at all and that whenever a question is directed toward you, you indicate well, it may be, I just can't recall. It seems to be replete throughout the deposition. I was just wondering how to reconcile that frankly with your positions you have held over the years and they've really been truly outstanding. I know you have an outstanding record and have enjoyed the regard of Director Casey.

I just find that perplexing as to how there could be such a major lapse in memory given the fact that you have obviously a very high

intellectual capability.

So, I guess that will just have to remain unexplained. I will go

forward and perhaps try to cover it in a different way.

On November 25th, 1985, according to Oliver North's notebooks, he indicated either you called him or he called you and you've indicated today that that simply didn't take place?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Which one?

Mr. Cohen. That would be the evening about 12:05.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Which exhibit?

Ms. McGINN. Which exhibit is that?

Mr. Cohen. I don't have the exhibit here. I'll get it for you.

You testified to it already this morning.

The question was raised in Oliver North's notebooks—a call was placed at 12:05 I believe. It indicated October 25. That was an incorrect—it should have been November 25th. In any event, you said—it was November 25th. "Call from Dewey, cargo must be listed as machine parts, spares for oil industry."

That's not the one I wanted. The one I want is the one where he indicated that McMahon and Clair George were upset and—this

would be exhibit 5-23.

"Summoned in by Clair/McMahon. 'This is criminal.' Told agency was freight forwarded by Dewey. Poindexter to intervene"—or—"intercede."

But you indicated that you have no—that call never was placed

by you to Colonel North?

Mr. Clarridge. I didn't say that, Senator Cohen. What I said was that I was never summoned to a meeting with Clair George and McMahon. I'm not even sure that Clair George was in town on the—whatever date this was—the 25th of November. I'm not sure about that. But I can say—I didn't say I didn't have any recollection. I said I was never summoned to a meeting.

Mr. Cohen. Did you place a call to Colonel North at 12:05 that

day?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I have no recollection of placing any call. That was a couple of years ago and, you know, I made a lot of calls.

Mr. COHEN. But that would have been around midnight, wouldn't

it?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. It's a peculiar time.

Mr. Cohen. Kind of an unusual event for you to place a call to Colonel North at midnight?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That's right.

Mr. Cohen. OK.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. But since the date is inaccurate, maybe the time was inaccurate.

Mr. Cohen. But you don't have any recollection about even talking to Colonel North about McMahon or anyone else being upset about the fact that the equipment was shipped?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I don't. As I say, I was never summoned to

any meeting.

Mr. Cohen. OK. And McMahon apparently is exaggerating if he was to testify that he went through the roof or the overhead about the fact?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I'm not saying that he exaggerated, if that's what he said he did. What I said is he did not do that with me.

Mr. Cohen. In any event, he then went to Sporkin, Judge Sporkin, who then was Mr. Sporkin and demanded a Finding and got a Finding and that's what John Poindexter called a CYA Finding to cover the Agency's activities at that point. And do you agree that John McMahon at least generated that CYA Finding?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't know that.

Mr. Cohen. Don't know? You were never aware a Finding had been signed?

Mr. Clarridge. Not at that time.

Mr. Cohen. Now you stated that oil equipment and arms were

both embargoed. You indicated that this morning?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. What I said was that when John McMahon called me he said that I don't care whether there are arms or oil equipment on the aircraft, they are both embargoed items. And I believe we may need a Finding.

Mr. Cohen. Well, if they are both embargoed, that would have violated, in any event that would have violated your own CIA regu-

lations, wouldn't it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. If the President had decided he wanted to

remove the embargo, I guess he can do that.

Mr. Cohen. I am talking about H.R. 7 which is a CIA regulation relating to support to the White House office. It says "Support requested by or extended to the White House office excluding the

production and dissemination of foreign intelligence must have the prior approval of the Director."

Did this particular shipment of oil equipment and/or HAWK

spare parts have the prior approval of the Director?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Not that I know of, but when the time came, when I was asked if we could come up with a reliable charter aircraft, and when the answer to that was they could not at that time of night and recommended the use of the proprietary, I went to my next echelon.

Mr. Cohen. Who was that, Mr. Juchniewicz?

Mr. Clarridge. Mr. Juchniewicz.

Mr. Cohen. Is he the director?

Mr. Clarridge. He is not the director.

Mr. Cohen. Does he have the authority to make that kind of decision?

Mr. Clarridge. I assumed he would probably go higher.

Mr. Cohen. So you relied upon his authority that you assumed he would talk with Mr. Casey?

Mr. Clarridge. No. Because Mr. Casey was not in town. He would have to talk with the acting director.

Mr. Cohen. Who would that have been?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. John McMahon.

Mr. Cohen. John McMahon wasn't in town either?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't know whether he was or he wasn't.

Mr. Cohen. OK.

You also indicated this morning that Colonel North would make representations to John Poindexter and Bud McFarlane and use your name when, in fact, he never spoke with you; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I'm saying that in that particular item that's

what I think was going on.

Mr. Cohen. But you indicated he had a habit?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. If I said he had a habit of doing it, I misspoke. I didn't say he had a habit. But there were on occasions-

Mr. Cohen. You said he liked to toss your name around because it carried some weight?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. And I think he did.

Mr. Cohen. What does that mean?

Mr. Clarridge. That means he did toss my name around on occasions, saying this looked good or it looked bad.

Mr. Cohen. Even though he had never spoken with you?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, in that particular case he had never spoken to me.

Mr. Cohen. He wouldn't be tossing your name around on those other occasions if he had in fact spoken to you. He would be acting with your official or-

Mr. Clarridge. Well, perhaps. But I might not have known that he was going to use my name when he approached me on a par-

ticular issue.

Mr. Cohen. In your deposition, page 33, a question was asked to you about your meeting Mr. Secord, General Secord. I think you indicated on page 32, that you met him once in 1986 and were surprised. He said "Good to see you again." You hadn't recalled ever meeting him in the first place. Then on the next page, I think it is

33, you said that Secord's not the sort of name that meant anything to me. You recall saying that?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. That's correct.

Mr. Cohen. OK.

You know Ted Shackley quite well?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I don't know him—I can't say I know him quite well. It depends on what you mean by quite well. He was the Associate Deputy Director of Operations when I was I guess Chief of Operations for—I mean, Deputy Chief [deleted].

Mr. Cohen. So you had some professional dealing with him going

back——

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Cohen. —A considerable period of time in the past, back in 1976, at least?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. 1976 I think it was.

Mr. Cohen. And were you aware that Ted Shackley had any relations with either Mr. Hakim or General Second at that point in time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. Not at all.

Mr. Cohen. Never had any communication from Mr. Shackley about Mr. Hakim?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Never. Never even knew the name "Hakim."

Mr. Cohen. I want to show you a document. It's a memorandum. I don't know if it's in your file or not. But it's dated August 5, 1976. It's from Mr. Shackley and you are referred to in the memo on page 2. I'll read it to you and then give it to you. It relates to August 4, 1976. Mr. Hakim was transitting Washington, DC on August 4, 1976. "As a result Mr. Shackley ran traces on Mr. Hakim in the Central Intelligence Agency central index and found no derogatory information. As a result of an appropriate clarification with Mr. Clarridge, [deleted] made arrangements to meet Mr. Hakim for lunch on August 4." Then it's indicated by the memo you were on the distribution list. So the memo was sent to you. It specifically refers that Mr. Shackley had coordinated the approach to Mr. Hakim that he might work for the Agency.

Mr. Clarridge. Well, I have——

Ms. McGinn. Can he see the memo?

Mr. Cohen. Take a look at this.

Would that be a misrepresentation on the part of Mr. Shackley? Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, let me point something out. Iran did not come under my purview [deleted]. [Deleted], for him to have involved me, there might have been some other reason, which I don't remember because I don't remember this at all.

Mr. Cohen. But the memo says that he coordinated with you.

That's an error?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I can't say it's in error. I don't recall whether he did or he didn't. I'm saying it is peculiar since Iran was not under my purview at that time.

Mr. Cohen. Also in the course of your deposition, you indicated that you believed you did not know that Ed Wilson—you didn't

follow the Ed Wilson matter?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. Cohen. You had no interest as a high level CIA operative as such with the implications of Ed Wilson and his tie to General Secord, Shackley, EASTCO?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. It doesn't mean a thing to me and it really

doesn't mean very much to me today.

Mr. COHEN. So the name "Secord" never surfaced to your level of consciousness at the time that the Wilson matter was being tried in the courts?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't think I was even in the country.

Mr. Cohen. So you had no understanding whatsoever of Shackley's relationship to Hakim or Secord or Quintero or anyone else?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No.

Mr. Cohen. That network never came to your attention?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, it did not.

Mr. COHEN. OK. On [deleted], I guess you covered that with Congressman Stokes. I was not here to hear all of his questions. But you indicated this morning that the Agency thought something was being offered by [deleted] and that was one of the reasons why, I believe you answered in your deposition, that you certainly had no part in soliciting [deleted] contributions for the Central Americans. It raised a question for me: If, in your mind, there was a doubt as to whether the Agency was being offered something or whether the Agency was soliciting something, would you be correct in responding to a question—were you involved in the solicitation of aid from [deleted] to Central America? Your answer would be "no." Because you believed that [deleted] were offering something that was not solicited. Is that the reason you offered it?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I think it is more complex than that. As we went through with Mr. Stokes, all I am saying in the deposition is—and I had not had a chance to review all of the cable traffic that I have now seen since that time, and did not recall it is that when I went [deleted], I did not ask for any help nor was any offered. And, in fact, a decision had been taken before I left that if anything was offered, I was to turn it down and I certainly wasn't

to ask for anything.

And that was followed up by a cable which I believe is in the

record here which confirms that.

Mr. Cohen. Let me turn to the diversion issue. I think you indicated that the pricing mechanism, there was some issue raised back in the fall of 1986 about the pricing mechanism, some confusion I think you indicated, but that as far as you are concerned, that was just a matter of bean counting.

You weren't concerned about how the weapons were priced or

not?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Let me explain, Mr. Cohen, that I was not directly involved in the Iranian matter through 1986. There came one occasion when [deleted], the Chief of the Near East Division, went on leave or went abroad and he asked me to sort of look over the logistical part that he was handling for CIA. In the course of that, a meeting was called, as I have said. I don't know whether I called the meeting for some reason or it was called by others. And a meeting was held at CIA where there was discussion about what had been shipped in the way of spare parts, what had arrived broken, what hadn't been shipped.

It was to get those accounts squared away. I left the meeting after a short period of time because there was nothing I could add to it, and I had other things to do.

Mr. Cohen. Didn't [deleted] show there were very high prices

being charged for weapons which were angering the Iranians?

Mr. Clarridge. Mr. Cohen, I wasn't reading [deleted]. It was not part of my business.

Mr. Cohen. Did Mr. Allen bring them to your attention?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Occasionally he brought one or two to my attention.

Mr. Cohen. But it wasn't of sufficient importance that—the price itself being so high might, in fact, endanger the lives of the hostages? That didn't occur to you?

Mr. Clarridge. Mr. Cohen, I was not involved in it. I don't know whether I ever saw any [deleted] that indicated the prices were

high.

Mr. Cohen. Let me turn to the preparation of the Casey testimony. I think that you indicated in your deposition that you recall attending one large meeting even though you don't recall the date or who, in fact, was there; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct. Mr. COHEN. And who was it——

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Let's put it this way. I don't recall all of the people who were there.

Mr. Cohen. Well, in your deposition, I think you indicated you

didn't recall who was there?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, that may be true.

Mr. Cohen. Nor could you recall the time. I raise this because this particular meeting occurred, you know, at a time around November of 1986, so it is fairly recent to the time that you were called to testify before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. There wasn't that much of a time gap where you wouldn't have at least some memory within roughly a month's time or less than a month's time, 3 weeks time. Yet you had virtually no recollection of that when you testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, as well.

Let me just go to that meeting. I assume that you were one of the people that Mr. Gates called in to try to prepare Mr. Casey's

testimony, is that a fair assumption?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. Cohen. What did you say about the November 1985 shipment during that meeting for the preparation of Mr. Casey's testimony?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't think I was ever asked.

Mr. Cohen. Weren't you the key-person involved in terms of giving the authority at that time to the proprietary to go forward?

Mr. Clarridge. No. As I have said, Mr. Cohen, when the proprietary became engaged or the possibility of it being engaged, I raised it to my superior level, Mr. Juchniewicz.

Mr. Cohen. Was Mr. Juchniewicz at this meeting that was held?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't know.

Mr. Cohen. Didn't you proceed with an additional four or five other flights as far as their arranging them through your contacts? Following the November shipment? Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. There were plans for four additional flights.

Mr. Cohen. Right.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. And I was arranging for clearance through [de-

leted1.

Mr. Cohen. Right. And even though you were planning to do that, nonetheless, when you went to that meeting to prepare Director Casey's testimony, no one asked you a single question about what took place on that day a year before?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I don't recall a single question on it. I think

everybody in the room knew what had happened.

Mr. Cohen. What was said during that time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I don't think the issue of the November flight

was a big one at that particular meeting.

Mr. Cohen. It certainly was a big one. It was the major issue whereby it was stated that the government—everyone in the government believed that it was oil-drilling equipment.

That is what was so controversial about Director Casey's testimony. You think everybody in that room, all, believed at that time

that it was oil-drilling equipment?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I cannot say what they thought.

Mr. Coнем. You don't remember?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. It isn't a matter of I don't remember. I don't

think it ever came up.

Mr. Cohen. Did you happen to see the statement that was drafted for Director Casey? Did you see the statement that was drafted for Director Casey?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I didn't.

Mr. Cohen. Did you appear with Director Casey before the House Intelligence Committee?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, I believe I was there for the House Intelli-

gence Committee, yes.

Mr. Cohen. When he gave his testimony, was there anything in his testimony that you felt was inaccurate or wrong?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Frankly, I can't recall.

Mr. Cohen. Wouldn't something of that importance stick in your memory?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I mean maybe it should, but it didn't.

Mr. Cohen. I would like to move on to the issue of the non-governmental, off-the-shelf counterterrorist unit. Do you have—did you have any discussions with Director Casey on the formation of an independent, covert operation or covert action capability for use in counterterrorist response teams? Did you ever have any conversation with Director Casey?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. You mean a non-governmental?

Mr. Cohen. Right.

Mr. Clarridge. No. I never have.

Mr. Cohen. Do you know whether the DCI approved the formation of such a group under the control of individuals who had no formal contact with the CIA, as such?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I never heard of such a thing.

Mr. Cohen. No discussions ever took place at that time?

Mr. Clarridge. No. Never even heard of it.

Mr. Cohen. Were you aware of the formation of any other groups who were independent of official U.S. control which were

used for the conduct of U.S. covert actions?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, I was aware of what was going on down in Central America as far as, you know, obviously somebody was doing something down there. But I had no specific knowledge as to

who they were or what exactly they were doing.

Mr. Cohen. So this is all new to you about this so-called independent group that they tried to set up through the use of the sale of funds of—sale of weapons to create a fund that could be used for so-called off-the-shelf independent operations? You never had any knowledge of that?

Mr. Clarridge. No. Not at all.

Mr. Cohen. How did it come that—or did you have dealings with Mr. Secord or Mr. Hakim in terms of the use of a ship that was

owned purportedly by Mr. Hakim?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. The only thing I know about a ship was that at some point in time after the Libyan raid, they [deleted]. [Deleted] they were searching around for some sort of other vehicle, and I believe it was that Colonel North suggested that a ship that he had some control over in the Mediterranean might be used for this purpose.

Mr. Cohen. That is the only contact you know about that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is all I know.

Mr. Cohen. From Colonel North's notebook dated January 14, 1986, there is a note that says, "Call Dewey. Tell the [deleted] to go to [deleted]. Tell [deleted] to back off [deleted], Re: Company inability to move."

Do you remember such a call from Colonel North?

Ms. McGinn. Could you tell us what exhibit number that is, please, Senator?

Mr. Cohen. I will withdraw it for the time being. It is not in your book, and I'll see to it that you get that before I pursue that. Who is [deleted] and [deleted]? Do you know either of those two

gentlemen?

A Print

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. [Deleted] at the present time is my [deleted]. And [deleted] held his position previously and now holds another one.

Mr. Cohen. Are you familiar with what the Tower Report referred to as General Secord's operation in Beirut which involved a 40-man Druze team under the coordination of General Secord and Mr. Nir?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I am not.

Mr. Cohen. Just one final point. I was curious about your, I guess, progress or at least rotation in terms of jobs. It seems to me that you were Director Casey's man of the hour. You moved from the Latin American Division when, in 1984?

Mr. Clarridge. The Latin American Division, yes, around early

October, 1984.

Mr. Cohen. Then you moved to Chief of the European Divi-

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, and then to [deleted].

Mr. Cohen. It seems you are the person they turn to for the three key areas that we have been dealing with, Central America,

the shipments coming from [deleted], where some of the weapons were purchased from [deleted] in Europe, and also on the counterterrorism, somehow it seems more than coincidental that you were

picked to be rotated in those particular cases.

Can you tell us how you happened to be rotated in that fashion? Mr. CLARRIDGE. How I got to [deleted] Latin American Division, I don't know all the ins and outs. When I was in [deleted], from in April when they decided to rotate me out of [deleted] until I arrived in August, they sent me five different messages with five different positions. I ended up with the final being [deleted] Latin American Division, and that decision was made pretty late, and I

don't know the background behind that decision.

I only met Mr. Casey once when he came on a visit to [deleted] around March or April, 1984. When I was rotated out of the Latin American Division to the European Division, the time had come for me to go. I had been in the job for over 3 years. I have had medical problems in the past, and I told Casey that 3 years is all I wanted to do. There was also, I think, some pressure from down here that they would rather see me out of that job. There was a lot of contrary pressure from the State Department, Defense, and NSC to keep me in it. I was kept in it over the time that Casey and I agreed that I wanted to leave. I wanted to leave 1 June, and because of pressure from other agencies, it lasted until 1 October.

Why I was put into the European Division, it was the only division available, and a lot of switching around had to be done to put me into that position. I suppose they thought I had to have some-

thing comparable with my grade.

Mr. Cohen. What were your instructions as the head of the European Division regarding working with Oliver North and his Contra resupply operation?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. None whatsoever.

Mr. Cohen. No instructions?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No instructions; never did anything anyway.

Mr. Cohen. When you were head of that division, did you help Colonel North buy or transport arms for the Contras?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I did not.

Mr. COHEN. Nothing from [deleted] shipped through [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Cohen. What were your instructions as [deleted] regarding the creation or the use of any capabilities beyond those that were being briefed to the Intelligence Committee?

Mr. Clarridge. None. Mr. Cohen. None? Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. The Chair has two announcements. I note for the record that for 2:08 p.m. to 2:22 p.m. during questioning by Senator Cohen, the House committee did not maintain a quorum because of a roll call vote in the House.

Secondly, the chair notes that there are people in the room taking notes. I want to advise everyone that we are in executive session. We are not to talk about what we hear in these sessions and any notes taken are classified notes until declassifed by the proper procedures of the committee.

Senator Cohen.

Mr. Cohen. Could you complete the round of questions that I asked you and tell us how you came to be rotated into the Counter-

terrorist Division?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. It was at the end of December of 1985 after the Rome and Vienna massacres, and the President had talked with Casey about the Agency doing a better job on the counterterrorism problem, and sometime in mid-January, Casey asked me to take off 6 or 7 weeks and examine why the Agency hadn't done better over the past 20 years on the problem and make some recommendations. That I did in about 10 days or so.

Casey said, "Well, now that you wrote the paper, why don't you take the job."

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Boren is recognized for 20 min-

Mr. Boren. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll try not to take that

I think most of the questions that I intended to ask have already

been covered by others.

I apologize; I had to leave to attend another meeting and missed

some of the questions.

[C/CATF] said he learned of Attorney General Meese's planned press conference of November 25th when he talked about the diversion at a meeting with Clair George that morning. I'm wondering when you first learned of the Meese November 25th announcement.

Mr. Clarridge. I think after it happened. I certainly didn't know

about it ahead of time.

Mr. Boren. What discussions did you have with regard to disclosure of information on this matter or on the arms sale to Iran or on the Contra operations to persons outside the CIA between the time that you learned that this investigation was ongoing, in other words, from the time of the Meese press conference and until you testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee in December? With whom did you confer about your testimony or what you would talk about between that time?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't think I talked with anybody.

Mr. Boren. You did not talk with anybody about your testimony?

Mr. Clarridge. No. You mean about what I was going to say? Mr. Boren. Did you discuss your testimony with anybody at the

Agency?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Boren. No one at all?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Not that I recall with anybody.

Mr. Boren. What about any discussions that you might have had with regard to your testimony or any disclosures about your own knowledge of these matters before your interview by the Tower Board; did you have any discussions with anyone in the Agency or anyone otherwise, any persons with regard to what you would talk about before the Tower Board?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. No, Mr. Boren, I can't remember talking to

anybody about what I was going to say down there.

Mr. Boren. What about before your testimony before the joint committee in earlier depositions?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Boren. So you had no conversations with anyone in terms of discussing the scope of the questions or the kind of information

that you would divulge or what you would be likely to say?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I understand what you are saying now. Yes, I have talked within CIA with Mr. Rizzo and Ms. McGinn, and I think with—my personal assistant prepared and got together documents.

Mr. Boren. Did you have any discussions with Mr. George at all prior to your testimony?

Mr. Clarridge. None whatsoever.

Mr. Boren. With [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. None.

Mr. Boren. With [deleted] or the person who was in charge who's alleged to have sent the cables to you, did you have discussion with any of them?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I have not seen them.

Mr. Boren. When you were still [deleted], according to Colonel North's testimony you took him around and introduced him to the Contra leaders. Who made the request of you to do that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I think if he has described it as sort of took him around, I'm not so sure I would put it quite that way. I remember one occasion when I saw him in [deleted], I believe. Again, it has been a long time, but I think there was one occasion when I went to [deleted], and [deleted] with General Gorman and Admiral Moreau and then we came up to [deleted], and there I think Colonel North was there—no, I think—excuse me, I'm trying to remember this.

There was one occasion, [deleted], and the interagency group sent myself and Colonel North down [deleted] and there we met with [deleted]. There may have been a meeting with some of the Resist-

ance leaders, but I can't recall specifically.

The other episode that I remember is this trip that General Gorman and Admiral Moreau and I took first to [deleted] and then to [deleted] and then [deleted]. I believe in [deleted] Colonel North was there and I can only remember a meeting in a cabana [deleted], I believe it was, with some people from the southern front, and it wasn't [deleted]. I think it was [deleted]. But that is the best I can do for you.

Mr. Boren. That is the extent of your introducing him around? Mr. Clarridge. If you want to call it introduced him to [deleted] in Washington when [deleted] made one of his trips up here, there was a meeting with [deleted] in the NSC-I don't know whether it was-

Mr. Boren. Did anyone ask you, Director Casey or anyone else, to sort of teach the ropes to Colonel North or to introduce Colonel North to any of these people, or was this done on your own or at

the request of Colonel North?

Mr. Clarridge. No. He was part of the interagency group and everybody in that group was meeting with these people from time to time. I didn't see it as a particular effort to go out and introduce him to these people.

Mr. Boren. Admiral Moreau—what was his assignment at that time that he was with you in Latin America?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't have exactly the correct title, the Assist-

ant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs.

Mr. Boren. So he at that time was somewhat involved in the Latin American-

Mr. Clarridge. He was a member of the interagency group.

Mr. Boren. Dealing with Latin America?

Mr. Clarridge. And probably a lot of other things.

Mr. Boren. He went to the Mediterranean Command after that?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. Boren. Do you know whether his going to the Mediterranean Command occurred at about the same time that you were assigned to Europe? You continued to have contact with him, I assume, after he went to the Mediterranean Command?

Mr. Clarridge. I did not. I don't know when his assignment came about. It seems to me that he left the European Command or the Naval Command in Naples in 1985, because I remember a social function at his house before he left, and it seems to me that

was the summer of 1985.

Mr. Boren. That was a social function in Naples?

Mr. Clarridge. No, a social function in Washington, DC.

Mr. Boren. Did anybody in your division, or did you give any advice to Colonel North on how to buy arms in Europe or how to get them down to Central America?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, they did not.

Mr. Boren. And you did not?

Mr. Clarridge. I did not.

Mr. Boren. To your knowledge, did you ever hear of anyone else at the CIA giving such advice?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I didn't. I never have.

Mr. Boren. I think you said to Senator Cohen that while you were in the European Division, you didn't advise Colonel North on the procurement, after you went to the European Division, on the procurement or transportation of arms?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I did not.

Mr. Boren. Did you have any role in Colonel North getting together with General Secord?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I did not.

Mr. Boren. I think again Senator Cohen asked you about this Hakim-owned ship that has been talked about. You mentioned the possible use of the ship [deleted]. But we have heard in other testimony that perhaps this same ship, the Hakim-owned ship, was used to wait off Lebanon for the possibly release of hostages and later to take equipment to Iran and possibly pick up some tanks.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. The only other thing, I never heard about it lying off the shore related to hostages, but I do remember a discussion or something about the possibility of a ship. I didn't know that Hakim owned it, that a ship some place in the Mediterranean was

going to go to Bandar Abbas, I believe, and pick up a T-72.

Mr. Boren. Do you know whether this ship was ever used for any other NSC or CIA-sponsored missions?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I don't.

Mr. Boren. Did you make use of any other resources or capabilities provided by Colonel North, Mr. Secord, Mr. Hakim or any of their associates while you were stationed in Europe?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. When I was in the European Division or in the

counterterrorism job, no.

Mr. Boren. Mr. Allen has indicated that he had meetings with Ghorbanifar, he tried to get the Agency to work with him. He appeared to be acting as your deputy and also a link to Colonel North and sort of a de facto operative in a lot of these situations, according to testimony that has been given to us. Did you supervise Mr. Allen's activities during this period of time?

Allen's activities during this period of time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I did not. It would appear, from my manning table, that he reported to me, but, in fact, he did not. He reported

to the Director as NIO for counterterrorism.

Mr. Boren. He was not reporting directly to you? Mr. Clarridge. He was not really reporting to me.

Mr. Boren. He has indicated that he had given you [deleted] from time to time.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. Boren. How much attention did you pay to these [deleted] regarding this program?

regarding this program?
Mr. CLARRIDGE. Very little.

Mr. Boren. But you were aware of them?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, but I rarely ever remembered them.

Mr. Boren. I presume you read them enough to know that at least in some period of time there were arms sales going on, quib-

bling back and forth about the prices and this sort of thing?

Mr. Clarridge. I was aware, as I think I stated before today in answer to a question, Mr. Allen sat two doors down from me, and Mr. Cave often used his office because he didn't have any other office. They would come, particularly Mr. Cave, and tell me what was going on, but I did not sort of [deleted] on a day-by-day basis or even on a weekly basis.

Mr. Boren. Did you know [deleted] that there were some prices being charged for the arms and that this was making the Iranian

firms angry? Were you exposed to that in this [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I understand it is in there, but I did not read it there. Where I heard about that was from talks with Mr. Cave.

Mr. Boren. Did Mr. Cave ever tell you about that? Mr. Clarridge. Yes, that there were pricing problems.

Mr. Boren. So he did tell you about that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, but I did not read it in the actual material. Mr. Boren. After he told you about it, did you do anything about it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. It wasn't my business.

Mr. Boren. What about Mr. Allen's analytical conclusion of September to October of 1986 that has been discussed with us, that there might have been a diversion of profits from this sale? When all this haggling was going on about price, obviously there was knowledge as to how much the government was being reimbursed, and he began to raise questions [deleted] as to where was the money going. If there were excess funds, surplus being generated, where was it going? Were you aware of Mr. Allen's suspicions about that?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I don't believe that he ever shared those suspicions with me. However, he did tell me after he had met with Mr. Furmark about what Mr. Furmark had said.

Mr. Boren. Let me ask you this one more time. On—you were briefed on November 22d [deleted]. As I understand it, you simply

don't remember the nature of that briefing.

Mr. Clarridge. I do not. I assume that it had something to do

with the hostage release business.

Mr. Boren. And, again, you don't remember any discussion that he had with you November 26th and 28th that the cargo was arms? You don't remember that discussion?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I do not remember that discussion. If he says that he brought these [deleted] to my attention, he probably did.

Mr. Boren. With [deleted] and with the communications people involved in sending the messages to you, those that say that they had sent you a message, they remember sending you a message indicating to you that this was not drilling equipment, that this was arms, you have no recollection of ever seeing that at all?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I do not.

Mr. Boren. And you never had a discussion with those people after that time about whether or not they ever sent you any such cable?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I have not seen [deleted] since he left for [de-

leted], when he went out first on assignment.

Mr. Boren. And you haven't had a discussion with either of them since that time or any time leading up to this testimony?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, and I don't even know the communicator.

Mr. Boren. I have no further questions.

Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, the chair will make part of the record, a CIA document, dated August 5, 1976, subject, "Mr. Albert Hakim, an Iranian importer-exporter dealing primarily in security systems and technology of interest to military establishments and intelligence services."

Chairman Hamilton. The Chair recognizes under the 10-minute

rule, Mr. DeWine.

Mr. DEWINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good afternoon, Mr. Clarridge.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Excuse me. It has just been suggested that I didn't understand the question that Mr. Boren was asking me about had I talked to anybody before I testified on any of these occasions. Yes, I talked with the Agency lawyers, and the Office of Legislative Affairs people.

Legislative Affairs people.

But I—in other words, how the testimony would go, but I think what I taking is, did I discuss substance with anybody? No, the

answer is no.

Chairman Hamilton. You may proceed, Mr. DeWine.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. Clarridge, we have had a great deal of testimony regarding the policy differences concerning this Iran initiative, particularly with regard to the arms sale. We have Shultz and Weinberger, who were certainly against the arms aspect of the initiative; Poindexter, McFarlane, Meese, and supposedly Director Casey generally supporting that initiative. You were close to Director Casey, I take it, is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. We talked about things.

Mr. DEWINE. Do you have any comments about this dispute, or would you like to speak to that in any way, anything you can share

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I can't prove it, but I think the strategic opening to Iran, the idea, the concept, the desire, began early in this administration, probably going back to 1981, certainly to 1982, in the form of General Haig, Mr. McFarlane, when he was counselor at the State Department, and Mr. Ledeen, when he was working there for Mr. McFarlane. I think the idea that we needed to open up_a strategic role or relationship started then.

The government quickly—and as things developed into 1985broke down into largely two groups of people. There was the group who felt that we should pursue the strategic opening and that

there were elements within Iran that could be worked with.

There was the other group, and again I am simplifying a rather complex matter, there was a second group which felt there was no such thing as a "moderate element" in Iran and that what we

really should be doing is teaching the Iranians a lesson.

Now, this was also to some extent reflected inside my building by those who had worked on the Iranian problem in 1979 to 1981. Again, they tended to reflect the idea that we should teach the Iranians a lesson, and there was nobody worth working with in Iran. And I think that as the Iranian thing developed in 1985, those lines were pretty clear-cut, and I think you see reflections of it today in certain attitudes in regard to the Gulf. These are being married. In other words, the group that had been interested in opening up relations with Iran or with some people in Iran, and as that was progressing, there was some hope. Obviously that has come to naught and the group more interested in teaching the Iranians a lesson or finding an excuse to teach them a lesson have now moved into the ascendency.

Mr. DEWINE. As [deleted] at the CIA, I am sure you are very much familiar and understand the need for cooperation between the United States and with other countries. It seems to me that we are having a tough time in getting other countries to work with us

in combatting terrorism.

Maybe you could share with us your expertise, if you believe we have a hard time and if you believe we do, why we have such a

hard time and what we can do about it if it is a problem.

Mr. Clarridge. I think that Ambassador Bremer, since taking over his position in the State Department, has made this a major item on his agenda. The problem is, and we are talking here largely about the Europeans, they have their own agendas which are often driven by commercial and political considerations, and in many cases they would prefer to cut deals with terrorist groups rather than sort of getting down to dealing with the problem. I think that is the overall issue.

Now I think if you get down to some specifics, I think [deleted], to some extent, have found that cutting deals doesn't work very well, and they are now paying a rather large penalty for having gone in that direction for a number of years, and all the European countries, leaving aside [deleted], to some extent [deleted], have come a long ways in the last year in cooperation with us, for exam-

ple.

Mr. DeWine. Any suggestions about what we do about that prob-

lem?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I think we have to keep working at it and finding ways in which we can cooperate. We—CIA has done a lot for these countries, particularly [deleted], for example, in the last 6 months, to make them or allow them to do a better job with their problem. We share an awful lot of information.

And based on what we have been able to supply [deleted], and of late they have had some rather startling successes, more of that

has to be done.

Mr. DeWine. This morning you gave us a rather gloomy picture of the options available to the United States for dealing with the hostage problems. [Deleted].

[Deleted].

Mr. DEWINE. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Inouye. Chairman Inouye. Senator McClure.

Mr. McClure. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, I have a couple of questions and they really are kind of sidelights but they are involved and I guess I'm curious at least, maybe more. [Deleted].

[Deleted].

Mr. CLARRIDGE. [Deleted]. We see that a British ship, the P&O, I guess it was, hit one mine, took a hit in the bow.

Mr. McClure. One was—was there just one British ship struck?

Mr. Clarridge. I think just one British, but there were other friendly nations' ships struck, yes.

Mr. McClure. [Deleted].

[Deleted].

Mr. McClure. And as a matter of fact European powers have not been very sympathetic with the United States with respect to Central American policy?

Mr. Clarridge. It has changed in our favor over the years.

Mr. McClure. But at the time of the mining, it was pretty uni-

formly the case, was it not?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I would say, Mr. McClure, it had already shifted dramatically by 1983 and 1984. Just to use [deleted] as an example, they had completely changed their position in regard to Nicaragua. Not that they were supporting us. Not that they were helping the Nicaraguan Resistance. But they had found—they had lowered very drastically their support to the Nicaraguan regime.

[Deleted].

Mr. McClure. All right. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Fascell is recognized for 10 minutes. Mr. Fascell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think I'll let that last

one go.

You got a phone call from Colonel North and you jumped to. Why is that? In November of 1985, North called you on the phone, said you got to do something about [deleted]. Why did you do anything?

Mr. Clarridge. Because he said it was an urgent matter. He may

have said it was life and death.

Mr. FASCELL. Suppose I'd have called you up. What would you have done?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Probably done the same thing.

Mr. FASCELL. Now you really got me. I'll try that with the CIA first chance I get.

Mr. Clarridge. Got to call the right person.

Mr. FASCELL. Oh, I see. So you were tasked by the Director to do something?

Mr. Clarridge. No. I was not tasked by the Director. Mr. FASCELL. You voluntarily did it on your own?

Mr. Clarridge. Ollie North calls up and says that he needs some urgent assistance-

Mr. FASCELL. Yes. I know that.

Mr. Clarridge. And it becomes clear that he is the national-

Mr. Fascell. Is he your boss?

Mr. Clarridge. No, he's speaking for the National Security Council.

Mr. Fascell. Are they your boss?

Mr. Clarridge. No, they are not my boss. Mr. Fascell. Did you check with Casey? Mr. Clarridge. No. He was not in town.

Mr. FASCELL. Did you check with his number two?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No.

Mr. FASCELL. You didn't check?

Mr. Clarridge. All I was asked to do was to provide some communications assistance.

Mr. Fascell. And you did it?

Mr. Clarridge. And I provided the communications assistance on my own.

Mr. Fascell. Well, let me ask you this then. Did you do anything

else for North?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, let me think. You mean-

Mr. FASCELL. Starting November 22d, 1985 up until the time he quit? You see what I'm getting at?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I don't think I did anything.

Mr. FASCELL. Is he running you or are you running him? Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I don't think I did anything else for him prior to November 1985. During the Achille Lauro affair-

Mr. FASCELL. Did you ever tell Casey what you did for North?

Mr. Clarridge. In regard to the November episode?

Mr. Fascell. Yes.

Mr. Clarridge. Well, certainly.

Mr. Fascell. Did you tell him after the fact?

Mr. Clarridge. He wasn't in town.

Mr. Fascell. Did you tell him when he got back in town?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. He was made aware of it. Mr. FASCELL. Yes, but did you tell him?

Mr. Clarridge. I cannot recollect whether I briefed Mr. Casey on what happened or McMahon briefed him or who briefed him.

Mr. FASCELL. How about North? North briefed him?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Not that I know of.

Mr. FASCELL. I still don't understand your relationship with Colonel North even if he is with the NSC unless you were instructed to do whatever the NSC asked you to do?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I was not.

Mr. FASCELL. OK. You are a brave man. One of the few in government.

All right. Let me ask you about something else. [Deleted].

Mr. Clarridge. [Deleted].

Mr. FASCELL. Is part of your responsibility—how long have you been [deleted]?

Mr. Clarridge. Since mid-February 1986.

Mr. FASCELL. Is it and has it been part of your responsibility to draft reports on the state of terrorism?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. We put out a lot of reporting on-not just

the state of terrorism.

Mr. FASCELL. Whatever you call that report on terrorism that goes into the National Intelligence Estimate.

Mr. Clarridge. Do you mean the publication that comes out

every day?

Mr. FASCELL. I don't know. No. I know what that is. I'm trying to figure out what is the report that you draft that lays the foundation for intelligence on the question of terrorism and counterterrorism?

Mr. Clarridge. We have agents reporting to us on what terrorist plans and intentions are. We put out reports, for instance, that put together——

Mr. FASCELL. How about the terrorist threat——

Ms. McGinn. Mr. Congressman, if you could allow him to answer

the question, I think it would be helpful.

Mr. FASCELL. I am trying to short-circuit it so we don't have to fumble around. The report is [deleted], allegedly sometime in early 1986.

Now basically is that the kind of document you would prepare? Mr. CLARRIDGE. That document is prepared by the National Intel-

ligence Officer for Counter Terrorism. We contribute to it.

Mr. FASCELL. Exactly. Now what I am trying to figure out, since I don't understand how you guys operate, is what do you give him so he can prepare this intelligence estimate?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. He receives what we call all-source intelligence,

which could be from agents, from newspapers, [deleted].

Mr. FASCELL. Is he the sole person responsible for the accumulation of the data and its analysis and its inclusion in the estimate?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. FASCELL. Do you have anything to do with that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, I do.

Mr. FASCELL. Do you sign off on something? Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I don't sign off per se.

Mr. FASCELL. Well, what do you have to do with it?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I have a group of people who will probably write his draft for him.

Mr. FASCELL. I see. OK.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. And then it goes into an interagency group and they'll argue about the wording.

Mr. FASCELL. Is that assessment or report or whatever it is, that

document, does it ever go to the Director?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Oh, yes. I think the Director has to sign off on it.

Mr. FASCELL. All right. Now are you familiar with one of those reports in 1986—whether it's this one or some other one—which the Director did not forward?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Dealing with the [deleted]?

Mr. FASCELL. He did not sign off on it. Yes. Dealing with Iran, specifically.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I am not.

Mr. FASCELL. Are you familiar with the Graham Fuller memorandum of 1985?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I don't believe I have ever seen that.

Mr. FASCELL. Are you familiar with the National Intelligence Estimate of 1986 which did a 180-degree turn from the Graham Fuller memorandum?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Is this again on Iran?

Mr. Fascell. On Iran.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, I am probably familiar with it.

Mr. FASCELL. The title for that—maybe it helps refresh your

memory—is "Iran: Prospects for Near-Term Instability."

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That would not come under my purview. That would be—and probably did not come under the National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism. That would be the National Intelligence officer for the Near East area.

Mr. FASCELL. And the two never——

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I am not saying they don't talk. You are asking

where the responsibility lies. I am trying to respond to that.

Mr. FASCELL. I am trying to find out why in the notes available to this committee a flat statement was made on the 1986 report, which was not too good in terms of Iran in that it—the assessment was Iran was heavily engaged in acts of terrorism notwithstanding, and that report was held at the CIA allegedly on the desk of the Director, and if that went through you, I wanted to know whether you had any part in that or any knowledge shout it

you had any part in that or any knowledge about it.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, no, I don't have any knowledge about it. That doesn't mean to say I didn't see it. I just don't have any knowledge about it. But what I would say, Mr. Fascell, is if the analysis that was done looking at the period from about 19—the summer of 1985 onward—and I can't give you the exact cut-off date in 1986, was, in the opinion of the analysts, Iranian terrorism against the United States had gone down significantly. Now, whether that was part of that report—

Mr. FASCELL. That is part of it, because that is the part that is in dispute, obviously. And the whole question was how did it get from where it was to where it was and I guess we will never know

unless we get the analyst himself up here.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is right, but I think there was enough evidence for the analyst to feel that Iranian-sponsored terrorism against the United States had dropped off.

Mr. Fascell. While, as against the rest of the world, it had gone

way up.

Mr. Clarridge. Well, it hadn't changed very much.

Mr. FASCELL. Yes. I see. OK. In other words, it is—I understand now.

You recall Acting Director Gates informed all CIA personnel involved in the Iran affair they would have an opportunity to go

back and rediscuss the matter with the Inspector General? Do you recall that?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. FASCELL. Did you take advantage of that opportunity?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I didn't.

Mr. FASCELL. Did you ever appear before the Inspector General?

Mr. Clarridge. I did.

Mr. FASCELL. Just one time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. I think one time.

Mr. FASCELL. So whatever you told the Inspector General is still your statement as of now?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. FASCELL. All right. Thank you, very much.

That is all I have, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Inouye. Chairman Inouye. Senator Sarbanes.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Clarridge, had you had any dealings with Oliver North before the November 1985 phone call when he sought your help on moving the shipment through [deleted]?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, I had. He became a member of the restricted interagency, RIG, on—the interagency group on Latin America. I

can't give you a precise date.

My best guess is some time in 1983, so I saw him frequently at the meetings of that group. And continued to see him at meetings of that group, and on, as I mentioned, we either met in Central America on one occasion or I was sent down there with him.

After I left the Latin American Division, I had very little to do with him until the *Achille Lauro* affair. That was when I was with the European Division and the *Achille Lauro* affair, I believe, was maybe October 1985. [Deleted].

Mr. SARBANES. What did you understand the relationship to be

between Director Casey and Lt. Col. North?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I think they were both admirers of each other. I think that Colonel North saw Casey from time to time. I cannot give you any real idea of the frequency.

I think he tended to see him mainly in Casey's office in the Exec-

utive Office Building.

On occasion, he came out to the Agency and saw him. But that is

about the best I can do as far as what the relationship was.

Mr. Sarbanes. Now, you said that, I think this morning, that some time in the period between November 20th and 27th, you learned that, in fact, the shipment was HAWKs, is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I am told by the National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism that he showed me material—I think around the 26th or maybe the 25th, 26th, or 27th, that would clearly have indicated to me that there were weapons in that shipment.

Mr. SARBANES. But when you started out, it was your under-

standing that it was oil-drilling equipment; is that right?

Mr. Clarridge. Actually, I think it was portrayed as sophisticat-

ed oil-drilling parts.

Mr. SARBANES. What was your view why it required such highlevel intervention in order to move sophisticated oil-drilling parts through? I mean, did you know that the National Security Adviser was calling the Foreign Minister? In effect, was stepping out of the Geneva talks in order to call the Foreign Minister in order to move this shipment? Did you know that?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes, I was.

Mr. SARBANES. You knew that at the time?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, there was certain cable traffic going back and forth. I don't know if that was reported from [deleted] that indeed that was going on or whether we reported it from here. But it is all here in the cable traffic.

Mr. SARBANES. Did you wonder to yourself why all this high-level intervention was necessary in order to move oil-drilling equipment

through?

Mr. Clarridge. Oil-drilling equipment was still embargoed. I felt it was—at least I thought the thought, I can't say I actually went through this process. You are asking me to sort of speculate. Oil-drilling—sophisticated oil-drilling parts, [deleted], were desperately needed by the Iranian Government to keep the oil fields going and that the primary source of those parts was the United States. Obviously, they were embargoed. Maybe there was a problem in that regard.

[Deleted] didn't want to get mixed up in it. Maybe it was the question of hostage issue. They were only being told—were only allowed to tell them it was a humanitarian gesture is, I guess, how it

was put.

Mr. SARBANES. When you found out it was weapons, that didn't make it more explainable to you? It was all explainable to begin with?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Would you please repeat that question?

Mr. SARBANES. When you found out it was weapons, that didn't make all of the activity surrounding trying to get this shipment through more explainable to you?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, I can't recall really, Mr. Sarbanes, whether

it did or it didn't.

Mr. Sarbanes. I am trying to get some sense of—I want to make some evaluation of your perceptions. I take it when all of this came and you were being told it was oil-drilling equipment and you looked at all of the activity surrounding trying to move oil-drilling equipment through, including getting the National Security Adviser to call the Foreign Minister and all of those interventions that were being made with [deleted], that didn't strike you as odd in any way? You didn't think that was an awful lot of high-level effort for this kind of shipment?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I think anything at that point in time involving the U.S. Government and Iran was enough to raise eyebrows as to what was going on and require high-level intervention at some

point to get the thing moving.

After all, everybody in the world knows that our relations with

Iran were not very good, to say the least.

Mr. SARBANES. Did it come as a big surprise to you when you found out it was weapons and not oil-drilling equipment?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't recall it coming as a big surprise. I can't

say that.

Mr. Sarbanes. Now, I want to get one thing clear on these exhibits that are under number 19. That is the [deleted] question. 19-2 is a cable that you authored; is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Mr. Sarbanes. Of course, you subject it, "[deleted] Assistance to Nicaraguan Project," and then as I understood it, you were critical in 19-5 of a cable from the—I guess this would be from [deleted], which was, subject, "[deleted] Assistance to Nicaraguan Project." I think you labeled him a lemming for doing that; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. No. What I said is we are all lemmings, that people when they write cables often just take the subject line from

the reference that they are writing the cable from.

Mr. SARBANES. But you are the originator of this subject line, aren't you?

Cable no. 2?

Mr. Clarridge. That is right. And at that point in time, clearly there was the understanding that [deleted] had made an offer, apparently in January, of assistance to the Nicaraguan Freedom Fighters, as I have said today. My point is that clearly the cable traffic, as it moves along, indicates that [deleted] had changed their position, if they ever had that position. Yet the cable writers continued to label the subject line "Support to the Nicaraguan Resistance Project" when, in fact, some of the cable traffic makes it very clear that what [deleted] were talking about was bilateral support—or relations between [deleted], having nothing to do with the Nicaraguan project.

Mr. SARBANES. Wouldn't it indirectly have something to do with

the Nicaraguan project, in any event?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Depends on who was getting it. I suppose if [deleted] had been the recipient, then you could say there might be some connection. In the case of [deleted], I am not so sure you could say that, or even of [deleted].

Mr. SARBANES. Now, when you went out to [deleted], what was your understanding of the status of this [deleted] assistance? Before

you got there.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. From [deleted] point of view?

Mr. SARBANES. Well, give it to me from their point of view and give it to me from our point of view.

Mr. Clarridge. From [deleted] point of view——

Mr. SARBANES. This is before you got there, from the time you left until you arrived, what was your understanding of the situation?

Mr. Clarridge. My understanding was if you look at [deleted], that is what I was operating on which is that [deleted] were proposing some sort of relationship with [deleted]. My understanding of what I was to do when I left was that the decision had been taken that I was not to ask for anything from [deleted] nor was I to accept anything from [deleted]. That was later followed up by a cable which is probably in this exhibit which underscores that.

When I got out there, [deleted] didn't offer any support to the Nicaraguan Resistance. They said that they had been approached by [deleted] which they did not name and asked if they would pro-

vide equipment and training.

[Deleted] said, you know, was that a good thing to do, and they said they would have to be paid for it. And I said [deleted]—I said no [deleted] had any money to pay you. [Deleted].

Mr. Sarbanes. Just let me close on that point. I take it what you say is when you got out there, you didn't ask, they didn't offer. You both sat there and looked at each other, I guess, with some sort of expectation? No one asked and no one offered and that is how the matter stood; is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Mr. Sarbanes. Now, on exhibit 19-18---

Mr. Clarridge. Exhibit 19——

Mr. Sarbanes. Dash 18. That is a cable from you and this is after your return. This would have been in May of 1984 after you came back.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Correct.

Mr. Sarbanes. And you say the current furor here over the Nicaraguan project which you attribute the furor being over the mining, urges that we postpone taking [deleted] up on their offer of assistance and express regrets that we can't do it, we must do this at least for the time being, that we cannot crank up the assistance on a moment's notice should we decide to go forward in the future. What is the assistance you are talking about?

Mr. Clarridge. We are talking about the only thing that [deleted] said, that they were prepared to offer assistance to the request that they had had from [deleted] and at this point in time for political reasons, we didn't even want them to get mixed up in Central America at all, whether with an individual country or with the Nicaraguan Resistance, whether they were being paid or not. [De-

leted].

Chairman Inouye. Senator Cohen.

Mr. Cohen. Mr. Chairman, earlier I referred to an item in Colonel North's spiral notebook and Mr. Clarridge had not had that in his book. I would like to give him a copy and review this with you.

As I look at the document, it is dated 1-14-86 and it says, "Meeting with Dick:" Correct me if I'm wrong, I'm trying to interpret what his notes say. "Meeting with Dick, options one, make Dick an agent of the Israelis; two, have President tell Cap make it work [deleted]. F-4 parts to Iran, [deleted], FAE use." Beneath that it says, "Number three, North option for Copp to act on behalf of," and below that it says, "get for Copp," and below that "call Owen, be prepared to carry currency to [deleted] for Chi Chi." Below that it says, "Call Dewey. Tell [deleted] to go to [deleted]. Tell [deleted] to back off pressure on [deleted], Re: Company's inability to move, 81 millimeter assets in grenades, et cetera, worth 350K."

Is that a fair reading of what that note says?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, I think so.

Mr. Cohen. Did you get a call from Colonel North telling you to go to [deleted] to have them back off any pressure they were putting on [deleted] relative to Secord's inability to move weapons?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. You are not going to like my answer. I don't recall getting a telephone call from him. But there is one thing I can tell you, I never sent a message telling [deleted] to tell [deleted] to back off North.

Mr. Cohen. Mr. Chairman, I ask that be entered in the record. Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. Courter.

Mr. Courter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, you indicated that you first learned of the National Security Council operation involving Iran on Thursday, I think it was, November 21, 1985.

Mr. Clarridge. Well, let's say I got a telephone call. I may not

have learned about it until actually the 22d.

Mr. COURTER. You got a telephone call from North. Based on that telephone call, you directed [deleted] to assist in arranging

clearance for the plane.

Now, that was something that you didn't have a great deal of time to discuss; it wasn't something that there was time for the councils of government in Washington and the Congress to get involved. It seems to me like it was a pretty immediate type of thing. The plane was airborne, was it not?

Mr. Clarridge. My understanding was that the 747 was over the

Mediterranean at about the time I got the telephone call.

Mr. Courter. You may not feel comfortable commenting on a proposed Executive order on covert activities. It has been reported in the press, it is not yet in writing, but we understand that the administration is coming forward with a new executive order on

covert activities listing certain types of requirements.

One of the things, according to the press, is as follows: All activity other than intelligence collection will be considered special activity subject to the requirement of a Presidential Finding. It goes on, saying that Congress should be notified within 48 hours after a Finding, but it also, in another section here, apparently they are kicking around the idea that there should be no retroactivity to

Findings.

Now, it seems to me, if you are going to be a strict constructionist, if there is no retroactivity to Findings permissible in the future, if in fact there is a new Executive order or legislation on that point, and if all but collecting intelligence is a special activity requiring a Finding, you couldn't assist under those emergencies—in that type of a request, you couldn't move equipment, you couldn't clear a runway, you couldn't gain landing rights. Would that be your understanding of no retroactivity in everything except intelligence requiring a Finding?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, if you are talking specifically in that rela-

tionship to what you said to the events in November—

Mr. Courter. Yes.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Then I guess you can argue whether providing the NSC with what's seen as communications support in an attempt to get landing rights, if you call that covert action, then you would put yourself in the position that you are suggesting.

Mr. Courter. My reading of this, and of course it is a press report, would be quite strict and it would prohibit that type of ac-

tivity.

So my question to you is, do you think that the CIA can engage in emergency-type, legitimate emergency-type operations with a strict requirement saying unless it is intelligence gathering, it is a special activity, special activities require a Finding and there can be no retroactivity to Findings, could you live with that or would it dramatically change the type of operations that you are familiar with?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. You know I'm speculating here.

Mr. Courter. Yes. So am I. We haven't seen anything but that is

what the speculation is.

Marin A

Mr. Clarridge. I think what you will find will happen to deal with this problem is that we will start writing Findings on all kinds of contingency possibilities and whether we will cover all those in the process of preparing these Findings, I can't say, but I think that bureaucratically is what will begin to happen.

Mr. Courter. I probably agree with you. I'm looking for ways to make the legalities and the requirements such that we don't have a repeat performance here, but on the other hand, when we draft recommendations or legislation or the administration comes out with a new Executive order, what is on their mind is a 6-month weapon sale to Iran and not all the things that the Intelligence Community gets involved with, and you have to be extremely careful.

I hope that this committee, as it comes up with recommendations——

Mr. Clarridge. If I may interrupt, I think you also run a danger in another way by moving down this road. It is something that the Tower Commission asked me to speak to. You have already seen an example of it, nobody likes it, and I think it is very dangerous, that as you begin to pin a President down further and further in his ability to conduct covert action, and particularly in emergency situations, you will have more private enterprises in the covert action field. If we haven't learned from this recent event, then it is a real tragedy, but it is very clear that there are people as individuals and governments and groups who feel strongly enough about issues that they are prepared to put their money where their mouth is, and I think if we are not careful, we are going to see a lot more of this.

I think we've got to understand that countries who feel that they are tied to us for their own security and see our unwillingness or the inability of an administration to be able to protect what this country thinks is the U.S. national interest, you are going to see people mixing in the covert action business that shouldn't be there, and we won't have the control over it.

Mr. Courter. I thank you for your comments. I think they are careful.

There have been a great deal of questions to you about the contents of the plane that landed there, whether it was a—we know what it was, but whether you had that knowledge or whether you thought at that particular time, as you testify, it was oil-drilling parts, and we are making a fairly substantial issue of that. And my simple question to you, would it have made any difference to you?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is a hard one to answer, and I'm only speculating as to whether it would have made a difference. It was something that when—I'll get—the best I can do on the answer is that when McMahon called me up, his concern was not whether it was weapons or oil-drilling parts; it was the embargo issue. Whether I would have had that same view of it at the time had I known it was weapons, I don't know. I just can't tell you. But I think it is quite likely that if I had known it was weapons, that I would have pushed it up further.

Mr. Courter. You would have made an inquiry to a higher level?

Mr. Clarridge. I would have gone up to Mr. Juchniewicz and said, "Hey, this is weapons onboard," and I think that is also why I make the statement, and I suggest that other people in the Deputy Director for Operations Office make the statement that had a cable come in from [deleted] that stated that Secord has told me that this is weapons or HAWKs, or whatever it is, it would have rung some alarm bells. And you can say that maybe it wouldn't have rung them with me and people can say that, but I'm sure it would have rung them on the 7th floor.

Mr. COURTER. You and Charlie Allen were probably the two individuals that both knew well Director Casey and Oliver North. Did you ever discuss with either Mr. Casey or Oliver North the diver-

sion of money from Iran to Central America?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I never did.

Mr. Courter. Oliver North testified that what was in Bill Casey's mind at one time was a full capability, off-the-shelf, independent, perpetually funded source of money for various covert activities. Did you ever discuss anything along those lines with Direc-

tor Casey or Oliver North?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I have not discussed it with either man. I think-I would just comment here, and it is speculation, that such an entity would be very appealing to the Director, who saw a role for, let us say, the private sector that went far beyond the use of the private sector by the U.S. Government. In his view it wasn't used enough. We didn't take advantage of it not only in intelligence terms, but in other terms perhaps. So I can conceive of his having at least speculated about the idea with Mr. North. I can't prove he did.

Mr. Courter. Mr. Clarridge, one last question. Did you ever destroy documents related to the November, 1985, shipments or direct that they be destroyed for any reason, whether it be for security reasons, whether it be in the normal course of business to

reduce large filing problems?
Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I didn't, and the fact that the file exists that we have been going through today is simply a fact that I didn't say to my secretary, because normally the files on the privacy traffic were destroyed 2 months, 3 months, every division has a different procedure for doing it—I never even asked that it be destroyed, and she didn't. And I was—I felt at the time it was very fortunate that she had kept the file.

Mr. COURTER. Thank you, Mr. Clarridge. My time is up.

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Inouye.

Chairman Inouyr. Mr. Clarridge, just a simple question. We have in our files and in your files copies of cables that were sent to [deleted] strongly urging them to exert pressure to get air clearances and such for the November, 1985 flight. Were these cables cleared by the DCI or authorized by the DCI?

Mr. Clarridge. It depends on whether you are talking specifically authorized, in other words he signed them or told me to send

them, is that your question?

Chairman Inouye. I am asking this because you were acting at the request of the White House, were you not? Mr. CLARRIDGE. That is correct.

Chairman Inouye. Isn't it true that you have an agency regulation that says that whenever you are acting at the request of the White House, that action should be cleared or approved by the

Mr. Clarridge. That is correct.

Chairman Inouye. Were these cables cleared?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. The initial cables and looking for clearance for getting the aircraft into [deleted] were not cleared by my superior.

Chairman Inouye. Why?

Mr. Clarridge. Because I didn't feel it was necessary to clear those cables. He was also receiving this material himself on a real time basis in his office.

Chairman Inouye. But wasn't this a request from the White

House?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It was.

Chairman Inouye. Didn't the rule require you to get it cleared? Mr. CLARRIDGE. I understand that—I guess it was read out here at some point—if you could-

Chairman Inouye. Would you consider such pressure on the for-

eign government as political action?
Mr. CLARRIDGE. You are talking about [deleted] in this case, because they are the only ones that really had any pressure put on.

Chairman Inouye. Would that be-

Mr. Clarridge. Again, I think the way I saw it at the time, and as I just mentioned in another conversation, you can interpret it the way I think you are coming, that it represents covert action.

Chairman Inouye. Or political action?

Mr. Clarridge. Political action. On the other hand, the way I think I was looking at it at the time was that I was providing communication support to the White House. I wasn't putting the pressure on. The White House was asking basically that the Embassy put the pressure on.

Chairman Inouye. So you were just the conduit?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. Now I can't say, frankly, whether I thought that process through at the time, to be honest with you.

Chairman Inouye. Thank you very much.

Mr. Woodcock.

Mr. Woodcock. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, would you describe your relationship with Michael Ledeen?

Mr. Clarridge. Can you stand a little history?

Mr. Woodcock. As brief as you can make it, please.

Mr. Clarridge. I was [deleted]. At some point, and I think it was in the fall of 1980, I became aware that Mr. Ledeen, and I think Mr. Shackley, had entered into some sort of a contract with [delet-

Mr. Woodcock. Did you have an ongoing relationship with him

during that period of time?

Mr. Clarridge. I had never met him.

Mr. Woodcock. At what point did you meet him?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. One time I met him at the State Department. when he was still there working for McFarlane, and I don't remember why I went to see him. That would have been sometime in 1983, I would guess.

Mr. Woodcock. Mr. Clarridge, let me direct your attention to a document which I have just had sent down to you, the lead document that is facing you is dated April 28th, and it is from the notebooks of Oliver North. The year is 1985. Down at the bottom of that page, there is a reference from North's handwriting that says "Call Clarridge re: Ledeen," and under that, "Iranian." Do you have any idea what that is a reference to?

Mr. Clarridge. No. If I can speak quicker, I can come to the Ledeen episode when I first talked to him about Iran and anything

having to do with that.

Mr. Woodcock. If you would.

Mr. Clarridge. Some time in, I would guess it was in January of 1986, Ledeen talked to me about the Agency's negative attitude toward Ghorbanifar and several other proposals that Ghorbanifar had, and information that Ghorbanifar had. The reason he talked to me about it was that some of the information that Ghorbanifar had dealt with terrorism. Some of the other problems dealt with matters regarding Europe.

Mr. Woodcock. Was he speaking to you in your capacity as Chief,

Europe?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I was in a transition period both as Chief, Europe, and when I became [deleted]. OK? He wanted me to use what little influence I had with the Director to get the Director to order activity on these other aspects that Ghorbanifar was propos-

ing or on which he had information.

Mr. Woodcock. Let me back you up a little bit. If you would turn to the next document in front of you, that is a document that was provided to these committees by the CIA. It is dated December 9, 1985, and it shows an attempt by Michael Ledeen to get in touch with you and pass information on to you about Ghorbanifar's Iranian contact. Do you have any recollection of the substance of that communication?

Mr. Clarridge. Could I just read it?

Mr. Woodcock. If you would.

Mr. Clarridge. I don't remember even knowing the name—it isn't spelled right here anyway, "[deleted] coming up until well into January or even February." I never saw this.

Mr. Woodcock. That did not make it to you, is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, it did not.

Mr. Woodcock. You have also testified I believe on the subject of the lengthy December 4 note that Oliver North wrote that attributed you as being aware of quite a number of things that you were, in fact, not aware of, a lot of those things that were listed in the Iran initiative note, is that correct?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. There is one paper, a long explanation of

what the plans are, et cetera.

Mr. Woodcock. That was dated December 4. There was a reference in the piece of paper that you just read in paragraph 3, and it is the author saying "I went down to EUR and talked to the Deputy Chief, who said Dewey was handling everything involved with this with [deleted]." Do you know what that is a reference to?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. I can't understand why [deleted] would be involved. It doesn't make any sense. I mean, this is the first time I

have seen this, and if I think about it some more, I may be able to explain it, but I can't at the moment. [Deleted]——

Mr. Woodcock. How did Charles Allen come to occupy a position within [deleted]? You testified earlier that he wore two hats during

that period of time.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. When [deleted] was formed, there was no recommendation that it incorporate the National Intelligence Office for Counterterrorism. I believe—I can't be sure—but I think it was Mr. Gates who wanted him incorporated in a sense [deleted]. And, therefore, he was given the title of Chief of Intelligence. But he still had his hat as National Intelligence for Counterterrorism and depending on the day, he wore whatever hat was most appropriate.

Mr. WOODCOCK. When he wore his Chief of Intelligence hat, were

you his superior?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, but he rarely wore it.

Mr. WOODCOCK. Would that mean he would have reporting responsibilities to you?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. In theory, yes.

Mr. Woodcock. Did he report to you regularly on the Iran channel at all?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. he did not.

Mr. Woodcock. Is it unusual for a National Intelligence officer to act in the capacity of a case officer?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes, it is.

Mr. Woodcock. To your knowledge, when Charles Allen took up his relationship with Ghorbanifar, was that his Chief of Intelligence hat that he was wearing or his National Intelligence officer hat?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. It had to be his National Intelligence Officer hat, and I think he even took up that relationship before [deleted]. I would have to check the record on that.

Mr. Woodcock. Mr. Chairman, if I might be allowed just a

couple more questions.

Let me direct your attention, if I may, to the last document before you. It is dated August 5th.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. This is the August 5th operational subgroup

meeting?

Mr. Woodcock. That is correct.

Let me direct your attention to the paragraph that is underlined, hostages, and that reads,

There was a lively discussion on the next steps to take on the remaining hostages. The discussion touched on the possibility of Kuwaitis releasing the Dawa 17 and the conditions that would lead to that action, that is protected borders with Iran.

When Colonel North testified before these committees, he testified that in his opinion the Dawa 17 were going to be released, in any event, and that that was why he ultimately took the position in his negotiations with the Iranians that a plan to release the Dawa 17 would be acceptable to the United States. What was your position on the release of the Dawa 17?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, frankly, I don't think I have ever had a

firm position.

Mr. Woodcock. Do you recall this-

Mr. Clarridge. No, I do not remember—am I noted as being at the meeting?

Mr. WOODCOCK. You are, at the top of the paragraph.
Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I don't remember this particular discussion, but in any event, this issue of the release of the Dawa and all of that was much more appropriate for the State Department to address from a policy point of view than it was an intelligence ques-

Mr. Woodcock. Did you ever pass to Colonel North an opinion of yours or an opinion of the Agency's that the Kuwaitis were inevita-

bly going to release the Dawa 17 at some point?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I certainly didn't pass any opinion, and I don't have any. That doesn't mean to say there wasn't one. In fact, I don't agree with it.

Mr. Woodcock. Thank you, Mr. Clarridge. Chairman Hamilton. The chair yields 10 minutes to Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Stokes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Clarridge, on page 137, of your deposition, you are asked on this page by Mr. Barbadoro if you knew anything about a plan in 1986 involving DEA officials and their contacts to pay bribes to certain officials [deleted] to gain the release of hostages. Your answer to him was, "No, I do not."

Is there anything about that answer that you would change

today?

Mr. Clarridge. No.

Mr. Stokes. The answer remains the same?

Mr. Clarridge. I was only aware, as I think I said in here, that there were some DEA officers on Cyprus working the problem on hostages. I don't know whether they were sent there for that or were permanent people there. [Deleted].

Mr. STOKES. [Deleted]. Mr. CLARKIDGE. [Deleted].

Mr. Stokes. You became [deleted] at the CIA in February of 1986. There were a couple of working groups that focused on the terrorist issue. One was known as the TIWG, the Terrorist Incident Working Group; another was the OSG, which I believe stands for Operations Sub-Group. Did you at any time have discussions about these DEA operations with these working groups?
Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I don't think the TIWG has met, certainly

since I became involved in the counterterrorism problem. It usually only meets when there is an incident like a hijacking, and they

may have in the case of Pan Am 73.

The operational subgroup that I attended, I don't recall any dis-

cussion about DEA operations.

Mr. Stokes. When you say you don't recall, does it mean that it

could have occurred?

Mr. Clarridge. I mean, I suppose it is possible, Mr. Stokes. But I simply don't remember DEA operations ever being discussed there, at all.

Mr. Stokes. So your best recollection is that you have never had a discussion with them about DEA operations?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. In this group, yes.

Mr. STOKES. With this group?

Mr. Clarridge. Or with DEA itself.

Mr. Stokes. OK. Were these working groups to your knowledge generally aware that Colonel North was in charge of these DEA activities?

Mr. Clarridge. I can't say, because it never came up.

Mr. Stokes. As we go over Colonel North's notebooks, they reflect a wide range of activities trying to obtain the release of hostages. Many of the activities related to his contacts with [deleted]. What did you know about Colonel North's activities with [deleted] in obtaining the release of hostages?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Well, I think the OSG group was well aware that he had a connection with [deleted], and then I think there was another [deleted]—maybe from [deleted]. And I can't recall his name.

Mr. Cohen. I am sorry? Can we---

[Discussion off the record.]

Mr. Stokes. You can withhold on that. I think we will make other provisions for you to respond to that under different circumstances.

Chairman Hamilton. Proceed. Do you have further questions, Mr. Stokes?

Mr. Stokes. On the 13th of September 1984, there were also some calls between you and Colonel North. That is exhibit 25. This is Colonel North's notebook. The entry that I want to refer to there is 1710, "Clarridge re: HPSCI" because HPSCI is the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, is that correct?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. Stokes. You go down and detail what occurred at that meeting. The meeting was on the 12th of September. Apparently you discussed questions with Mr. McCurdy, Mr. Fowler. You also note what Mr. Motley, then the Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs, had to say. There is a notation about [deleted] and about [deleted], relations probably with [deleted], and then some discussion about funding. It says "think money is going direct to Calero, who won't tell us, very good chance money is coming from patriotic Americans and other foreigners who feel strongly."

A couple questions. Firstly, did you feel a responsibility to inform Colonel North what went on or what you said and what others said

in executive session here in the Congress?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I can't read this very well. No. I don't remember ever telling him what went on at a HPSCI meeting. There was certainly—this says that I did, but I don't understand what I was saying here.

I can't really understand it all. Some of it I can.

Mr. Stokes. It appears or is apparent, is it not, that you related to Colonel North what took place at an executive committee session of HPSCI?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. If I could understand the writing better, then I would be able to comment, but it looks like I made at least some comments to him on what happened there.

Mr. Stokes. Well, it refers to McCurdy's questions. That is clear. Mr. Clarridge. McCurdy's questions re: NSPG on—and I can't read the rest.

Mr. STOKES. Looks like [deleted]. Something like that.

Mr. Clarridge. Well, that doesn't mean anything to me. Modey said——

Mr. Stokes. Motley was present with you on that occasion?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. He was?

Mr. Stokes. Was he?

Mr. Clarridge. I have no idea. Motley said we are—I don't know.

Mr. Stokes. The next page, where it says, "Clarridge call continued." Are you able to make out anything there? "Fowler ——Mr. CLARRIDGE. "—positioning himself to—"

Mr. Stokes. That would be Congressman Fowler; right?

Mr. Clarridge. I would assume so. Was he on the committee in 1984?

Mr. Stokes. In 1984, he was.

Mr. Clarridge. I can't read the rest of the writing.

Mr. Stokes. Well, would you say that this was not something that Colonel North just manufactured?

Mr. Clarridge. Oh, no.

Mr. STOKES. In all probability, you must have talked to him?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Certainly.

Mr. STOKES. Then I come back to why would you be discussing with him matters related to an executive committee testimony with HPSCI?

Mr. Clarridge. Well, I don't know. Is that against the law?

Mr. STOKES. Well, I don't know whether it is against the law or

not. I am just wondering what your policy was.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I mean, I think, Congressman Stokes, I am not trying to be difficult. We had a-a Restricted Interagency Group that had a number of people who attended it who also attended executive sessions of various committees of Congress. Frequently what happened at those committees were discussed with members of the interagency group.

Mr. Stokes. So then it would have been customary to call Colo-

nel North and discuss it with him?

Mr. Clarridge. No. No. I wouldn't say it was customary at all. Mr. Stokes! Were you under any instructions from Mr. Casey or anyone else to discuss-

Mr. Clarridge. No. No. I certainly was not.

Mr. Stokes. I see. So whatever way this occurred, you have nofirstly, no recollection of the call? And then, secondly, no remembrance as to why you would have talked with him?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I don't. These notes don't sort of lend them-

selves to that.

Mr. STOKES. OK. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I yield back subject to whatever provision you wanted to bring in with reference to the question that we reserved on.

Chairman Hamilton. Thank you very much.

The chair, without objection, will make a part of the record

DRC-1 through DCR-34.

Chairman Hamilton. Also CIA memorandum, one dated December 9, 1985, subject, "Ledeen phone call," and a second memorandum dated August 5, 1986, a National Security Council memorandum, subject, "Operations Sub Group terrorist incident working dum, subject, "Operations Sub Group terrorist incident working group meeting." Also a part of the record, notes by Lt. Col. North dated 26 and 28 of April, 1985.

[The information appears in appendix B.]

Chairman Hamilton. The chair recognizes Mr. Liman.

I am sorry. Senator Cohen?

Mr. Cohen. When you include the records, I think 1 through 34, would that be subject to any redacting of otherwise sensitive information that we may want to pursue in a smaller session?

Chairman Hamilton. Yes. It would be subject to such redacting.

Mr. Cohen. I am thinking of exhibits 3 and 9, in particular.

Chairman Hamilton. We will take special note of that.

I thank the Senator.

Mr. Liman.

Mr. Liman. Mr. Clarridge, you were completing your term as [deleted the Latin American Division before the Boland Amendment prohibiting CIA support for the Contras came into effect, am I correct?

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. If that was 1 October 1984?

Mr. Liman. Yes.

Mr. Clarridge. Yes.

Mr. LIMAN. Prior to that, the CIA was providing military and paramilitary assistance to the Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. Liman. Who did you contemplate would take charge of the care and feeding of the Contras once the CIA was out?

Mr. Clarridge. As I think I have stated today, and I have stated in various depositions, the hope was that the President would be able to pull it off again and get the Congress to support aid to the Freedom Fighters.

Mr. Liman. Well, in the interim, between the time that the CIA was out and the time that Congress might appropriate money, who did you think would be in charge of the care and feeding of the

Contras?

Mr. Clarridge. My instructions were to draw down on our pres-

ence [deleted] and to get ready to cut and run.

Mr. Liman. Let me put it differently. Did you understand that the NSC staff would be filling the vacuum?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I did not.

Mr. Liman. And Colonel North never told you in any of his con-

versations that he had been tasked to do so?

Mr. Clarridge. He never told me that he was tasked to take over the support to the Contras. I became aware of his efforts through various things that he said to me over a period of time that he was struggling to do this.

Mr. Liman. Did you ever have any discussion with him as to whether the Boland Amendment applied to the NSC staff?

Mr. Clarridge. I believe at one time that I suggested to him that he find out from lawyers whether it did.

Mr. LIMAN. And what did he say to you?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't recall.

Mr. Liman. And do you recall when it was you made that suggestion to him?

Mr. Clarridge. I don't know because this would be simply a guess.

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Mr. Liman. OK.

Mr. Clarridge. You don't want me to guess?

Mr. Liman. Let's call it a best recollection and then you could say it.

Mr. Clarridge. I would guess some time in late 1984.

Mr. Liman. Did you ever discuss that with Director Casey? Mr. Clarridge. No, I did not. I saw very little of the Director from the time I left the Latin America Division until in October 1984—until December 1985.

Mr. Liman. Now, you also said before that Director Casey was in-

terested in using the private sector more in covert operations?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I said that Director Casey was interested in using the private sector more in the totality of support not only to the collection of intelligence, but to various other things that it could do for the U.S. Government.

Mr. Liman. What did he say to you that gave you that opinion?

Mr. Clarridge. [Deleted].

[Deleted].

But he simply felt we didn't use it enough and he made a big

effort to improve on that.

Mr. Liman. Did he ever express to you the view that the private sector could do this work more effectively because it wasn't under the same restrictions as the CIA?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No. He never did. And I was speculating or to

use your phrase-

Mr. Liman. Best recollection?

Mr. Clarridge. Best recollection—well, it doesn't really apply to this. I can imagine that what Colonel North said that the Director might have been interested in what the private sector could do in the covert action field.

Mr. Liman. The last few questions.

In your profession, you come across cover stories frequently, is that so?

Mr. Clarridge. Oh, yes.

Mr. LIMAN. And they—cover stories, if they are to have any chance of working, are supposed to have a degree of plausibility?

Mr. Clarridge. Correct.

Mr. LIMAN. Did it ever occur to you when you were told about the cargo being oil-drilling parts that that might be a cover story?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. As I said, I think in my deposition, I was not unaware that there were various arms deals going on or that Iran was trying to work out—or that people were trying to work out with them, most of which apparently were scams of some sort. I am sure that that crossed my mind.

I can't prove it did, but I am sure it crossed my mind.

Mr. Liman. Did you ever at the time say to Colonel North is that the cover or is that the truth?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I can't recall having said that.

Mr. Liman. It seems to me, certainly to me, that when we came to November 1986, about half the people were using the cover story and the other half using the reality, and I was just wondering whether you had ever discussed with North at the time, in 1985, is this a cover story?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. No, I can't say that I did.

Mr. Liman. And you never suggested it as the cover story?

Mr. Clarridge. No, I never did.

Mr. Liman. All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hamilton. The chair wants to remind members and all persons present that this is an executive session and under the rules of the House and the Senate we are not to talk about and we are not to reveal any information that has been learned here today.

Secondly, the chair would request that we release the declassified

testimony of Mr. Clarridge as soon as it is ready.

Is there any objection to that?

If not, it is so ordered.

Mr. Clarridge, we thank you very much.

Mr. McCollum. Mr. Chairman, I had 5 minutes, I believe.

Chairman Hamilton. I am sorry. Mr. McCollum, you are right.

The chair recognizes you for 5 additional minutes.

Mr. McCollum. I do want to clarify something. This morning in my direct questioning you testified to something that upon reflection I found to be really quite incredible, and that is that in the process of setting up the Iranian initiative, Director Casey initially wanted to use the CIA to do the whole—run the whole operation, but that because of those underneath him, Mr. McMahon, Mr. George, other people, you didn't name them all, but we ran through some of them.

Mr. Clarridge. Yes. But I cannot speak for some of those people. Mr. McCollum. I understand you cannot, but people in the Agency, under him, not wanting to deal with Mr. Ghorbanifar, not liking the situation with him, that only the logistics operations were kept with the Agency and Colonel North wound up running

the other operation, or NSC wound up running it.

I don't know which interpretation to place on this. Therefore, I want to ask you so there is no question about it: Was it your understanding that Director Casey's desires to run this were expressed to people in the Agency and because they had these feelings about Ghorbanifar he decided it wasn't a good idea to press this on them? Or did we have a situation where Director Casey really ordered his people and they wouldn't do it?

Mr. Clarridge. I can't give you a final answer on that. All I know is what he said to me. I would guess it is the former. That he sensed or he knew from the discussions with others that they did not favor dealing with Ghorbanifar because he was a scumbag-

maybe I shouldn't say that.

Mr. McCollum. Whatever you want to say. It is all right. He's been described in many ways openly and publicly. You can call

him anything you want in here.

Mr. Clarridge. He couldn't pass the polygraph even to get his name right. I think that was the feeling they had and I think the Director sensed that there wasn't support down there and, therefore, never pushed the issue. But that is only, you know, sort of sensing.

Mr. McCollum. You do know and you have testified to us that at least we know for a fact that Director Casey had a preference for

the Agency initially running the whole thing?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. I know that for a fact.

Mr. McCollum. I have another followup question to this morning's questioning.

[Deleted]. Deleted].

Mr. McCollum. I understand completely what you mean. I think that is why we need to have an understanding and general public acquiescence in changing some anti-terrorist policies if we are going to be successful. To some degree or other, whether it is on specifics, we certainly need to do that. We certainly need public debate to change that climate. I think you would agree with that?

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Yes. I think probably the climate is there.

Mr. McCollum. Let me conclude by saying that there are some of us that think you are doing a heck of a job in this area. We appreciate it and are grateful for it. Keep it up.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Thank you very much.

Mr. McCollum. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. The Chair would point out that redactions should be made and are necessary in exhibit 16, the references to [deleted].

Are there any other questions?

If not, Mr. Clarridge, let me express my appreciation on behalf of the two committees to you again for your testimony. You have been helpful and you are excused, sir.

Mr. CLARRIDGE. Thank you.

Chairman Hamilton. We will have a 10-minute recess and then begin with [C/CATF].

[Recess.]

Chairman Hamilton. The joint committees will come to order. Our witness this afternoon is [C/CATF]. [C/CATF] would you stand please and raise your right hand.

Witness sworn.

TESTIMONY OF [C/CATF]

Chairman Hamilton. Do you have an opening statement, [C/CATF]?

[C/CATF]. I have a few opening comments that I would like to make. It is not a prepared statement.

Chairman Hamilton. Please proceed.

[C/CATF]. I would like to thank the committee for the very thorough arrangements that were made for my appearance here and protecting my identity. [Deleted] and I appreciate the arrangements made to get me into this room avoiding publicity.

Second, I would like to thank the committee for the opportunity to appear here. References to my name have come up many times in these hearings, and I think it is proper that I have a chance to make my comments, answer your questions and get my story or my perspective on the record for you to hear personally, and I thank

you for that opportunity.

Thirdly, I would ask in these proceedings that we try to proceed chronologically because my situation or the situation in which I found myself changed chronologically from 1984 to the summer of 1985, when the laws changed. Then again in December of 1985 when the laws changed again and then again in the fall of 1986, when the laws changed again. And at each time, block of time, my

involvement, my level of acknowledgeability changed and that was because I understood from the very beginning the position in which I was found.

Some of you will remember October and November of 1984 when the Tayacan manual, in the press known as the Murder Manual, flap hit. I was new in the task force at that point in time and likened my position to a cap thrown in a dryer, tumbling and trying

to figure out what was happening to me.

I learned that I was in a charged political environment, that there were perils on all sides and I was going to have to learn to live in that environment and be very astute if I was to survive and I did that. Each step of the way I had the laws in mind, the political dynamics in mind, and I knew almost from the beginning that I was caught between the dynamics of a giant nutcracker of the Legislative on the one hand and the Executive on the other, and I was

in the center in a very exposed position.

There were those who said I was not smart for taking the job but the Director had asked me to do it and I believed in what he had asked me to do, and so I did. During the 3 years that I have been in that job and particularly the 2 years that are the question of inquiry of the committee, I worked to serve the administration, the Executive, within the bounds of the law as laid down by the Executive, by the Legislative and to do so to the fullest of my ability and to in every way possible work with the Congress to change that law and to clear the contradiction that was at play to try to get myself out of the nutcracker I found myself in.

It was clear to me then, it is clear to me now that the words of Abraham Lincoln are as true as the sun rising in the east every morning—a house divided against itself cannot long endure, and in Nicaragua and in Central America we were clearly a house divided against ourselves and we had to change it. And I think that is what

this hearing is all about.

I am here to answer your questions how I handled myself during this period, why I did what I did, what my logic was. I don't claim that every decision I made was the right one. If I could turn the clock back I might do some things different, but not many. And in the end, I hope two things happen—one that the House is no longer divided and second, to persevere in Central America, because if we don't, I don't want to think what the 21st Century will be like for us as a great nation.

Thank you.

Chairman Hamilton. Thank you. Questioning will begin with counsel, Mr. Carome.

Mr. CAROME. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good afternoon [C/CATF]. What date did you become the Chief of the Central American Task Force?

[C/CATF]. On or about 9 October 1984.

Mr. CAROME. Am I correct that that is just within a day or two of the effect of the full Boland Amendment?

[C/CATF]. As I recall the full Boland Amendment actually was signed into law on 11 October 1984.

Mr. CAROME. When did you start work at the CIA?

[C/CATF]. June of 1967.

Mr. CAROME. And if you could very briefly summarize the positions you have held?

[C/CATF]. [Deleted].

[Deleted] was scheduled to come back and to take the job that I had really hoped to take, it was my career ambition to be [deleted]. Director Casey asked me in I think it was August of 1984 to take this job or to take a new job—Clair George actually told me what the job was, Chief of the Central American Task Force—and I began to study in for that job in mid-September of 1984 and have been in it ever since.

Mr. CAROME. This current position you have was your first CIA position that related in any way to Central America, is that right?

[C/CATF]. Yes, it is.

Mr. CAROME. Could you give me a three-sentence description of

what the Central American Task Force is?

[C/CATF]. It is the headquarters element of the Central Intelligence Agency which manages our operations in Central America. It is a unique entity in that it is self-contained. It has a support apparatus that is normally found in an operating division. It has a reporting line that goes through [deleted] but also directly to the DDO and under Director Casey, directly to the DCI. It also is unique because it has a heavy operational element in dealing with various assets and various programs, unlike other divisions, which are mostly managerial.

Mr. CAROME. Do you use any code names?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I do.

Mr. CAROME. What are they?

[C/CATF]. [Deleted] and [deleted], in this job. I've used other names in other jobs.

Mr. CAROME. Which of those code names if any would Oliver

North have known?

[C/CATF]. [Deleted]. I don't think he knew the [deleted]. If he did

it was not central.

Mr. CAROME. What is your understanding of the law as it applied between October 1984, when you took your job, and August 1985 on the subject of Central Intelligence Agency passing intelligence to the Contras?

[C/CATF]. It was my understanding that intelligence could not be passed to the Contras, period. There was one point that was a matter of discussion in the law and that was whether or not we could pass defensive intelligence to the Resistance forces. We met with the intelligence committees, particularly the House Intelligence Committee, debated that issue and finally came down to the fact that it probably was not something that was politically wise to do but under extenuating circumstances we probably could.

Mr. CAROME. Was it permissible for you to pass intelligence information to Colonel North and for him to then pass information

on to the Contras?

[C/CATF]. No, I would not think so.

Mr. CAROME. During that timeframe did Oliver North ever ask you for intelligence information relating to Nicaragua?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. CAROME. Did you sometimes provide it?

[C/CATF]. Never when I thought it was going to Nicaragua. As a matter of fact, many times when I thought that was where it was going I did not provide it. When I was told that it was to be used in the context of his White House job, I think it is important to say here that he was the central figure for the administration on Central American policy during the period in question, and there were unique circumstances that created that circumstance. I would provide it to him and did I think as I go back and reflect and look at some of these exhibits, which thanks to the committee I have seen, might have from time to time but mostly I did not.

Mr. CAROME. Robert Owen has testified to this committee that in mid-November 1984 North gave him intelligence, including maps, to take to Contra leaders for use in a possible operation to take out Hind helicopters. Owen said that North told him that these maps had come from across the river and that that meant either the

Pentagon or the CIA.

My question is, were you aware at the time that Oliver North was seeking to obtain intelligence relating to the Hind helicopters and seeking to pass that intelligence to the Contra leadership?

and seeking to pass that intelligence to the Contra leadership?

[C/CATF]. Let me take the question in two parts. During the time that the Hind helicopters were delivered to Central America and Nicaragua, I was very much aware that not only North but everybody in the U.S. Government and Congress and the press was trying to seek information on exactly what was delivered. There was first a thought that they were MIG-21s which called into place serious political questions and questions as to whether or not they were in fact Hind-21s. There was an intense exchange that took place within the administration, particularly with the White House and particularly with North, about whether or not they were Hind-21s. There were also discussions about what options were to exercise contingency plans or to exercise markers which had been laid down by the administration.

So in that context, yes, I was very much aware that Oliver North, others at the highest levels of the government were deeply and intensely interested in following this matter and were seeking

intelligence from multiple sources.

The second question: Was I aware that Oliver North was seeking intelligence on that issue to pass to the Nicaraguan Resistance. There were meetings that I attended in the Department of State under the chairmanship of Ambassador Motley where the whole issue of how to deal with the MIG-21s was discussed. One particular issue discussed was whether or not CIA could exercise a particular contingency plan which had been laid out prior to the Boland Amendment. I said we could not and repeated the law. I was aware that Oliver North was interested in exercising sort of an option like that or looking at options. I cannot recall a specific awareness that he was looking for intelligence to take out the Hind-21s and was seeking for intelligence to pass to the Contras on that subject.

It is possible that 2 or 3 years ago I was aware of it, but I don't

recall specific knowledge of that.

Mr. CAROME. Would you please turn to exhibit 1. Exhibit 1 is a memorandum dated November 7, 1984 from Oliver North to Robert McFarlane. It indicates that North was trying to get intelligence

information to Calero to take out the Hinds. In the middle of page 1 it states that Mr. North had on the evening of November 5th called Bob Vickers, NIO for Latin America, and General Paul Gorman and asked them for all we had on the location of the Hinds. Were you familiar that such a request had been made on November 5th?

[C/CATF]. I could have been. I don't recall specifically.

Mr. CAROME. Turn to the middle of page 2—at the beginning of the last paragraph it states, "the meeting with Calero was terminated by 5 p.m. and then after the CPPG meeting I again called [C/CATF] and asked for any further updates on the Hinds and on new information on the MIGs."

Does that refresh your recollection that Colonel North was speaking directly to you and asking you for intelligence informa-

tion on taking out the Hinds at that time?

[C/CATF]. As I told you, it does not bring back specific memories but I know that we talked about the MIGs until about a year ago or the deliveries. [Deleted]. It was an intense discussion and in his capacity as the focal point for the NSC and the White House on this subject, I talked to Ollie a lot about those things. I don't remember the details of those discussions in passing information to him, but I undoubtedly did do that.

Mr. CAROME. When you did that did you do anything to make sure that that information was not being passed on to the Contra

leadership?

[C/CATF]. I didn't pass it to the Contra leadership. At that time I had been in my job for 6 weeks or thereabouts and had no reason, I don't think, to believe that Oliver North would have been doing that at that point in time, and frankly wouldn't have probably said, Ollie, don't you pass this to the Contras, because I am not sure I had developed much of an understanding.

Mr. CAROME. But you knew that would have been illegal if that

had occurred?

[C/CATF]. I would have known that I couldn't have passed the intelligence to the Contras, and as you will hear throughout this testimony, I couldn't do with Ollie something that I couldn't have done myself directly and that was my guiding light in dealing with Ollie for the next 2½ years.

As I would talk to him, racing through my mind would be, could I do this myself. So the answer is I would have known I couldn't have done that, and it would not have been proper for me. Whether or not it was legal for Ollie to do it, at that point in time, I don't think the thought crossed my mind. It does, as you'll hear my testi-

mony, at a later date.

Mr. Carome. In February 1985, there came another occasion where, according to the testimony of Robert Owen, Oliver North gave him maps to take to the Contra leaders for use in a military operation on the [deleted], Nicaraguan border. Mr. Owen has testified that the maps that were originally provided were too large for him to take down surreptitiously to Nicaragua and that he was in Oliver North's office when Oliver North called you to ask you to provide maps of a suitable size to take down to the Nicaraguan leadership.

Do you recall that event in February 1985?

[C/CATF]. I am trying to recall what was happening with the Resistance in February 1985. I do not recall that specific event. I think I have testified to that 3 or 4 times in various depositions and such, and don't think that—I don't recall that conversation having taken place, no.

Mr. CAROME. If in February 1985 Oliver North asked you for maps relating to activity on the Nicaraguan-[deleted] border, would

you have provided it to him?

[C/CATF]. No. As a matter of fact I would have found some way

to have avoided doing that if that is what it was for.

Mr. CAROME. Would you please turn to exhibit 2 is an entry out of Oliver North's notebooks dated February 8, 1985, the time we were just talking about. At 7 o'clock there is an entry that says maps delivered by [deleted], and 15 minutes later at 7:15 it says meeting with Rob Owen. That appears to relate to the incident that Mr. Owen testified about.

[C/CATF]. No. There is another meeting, another entry there, they are two things. I am going to be a little bit particular here. The meeting with Rob Owen was 5 minutes after the map is alleged to have been delivered, meaning he was not in the room

probably.

Secondly, there is a 9:30 meeting with Ronald Reagan and so on. If I had delivered a map to Oliver North and it looks like I did, [deleted] was a person who worked on my staff—it would have been because Oliver North said I need this to brief the President, and that is the way he dealt, bombastically, and you would push and push and push and the decision I had to make each time a segment came in was whether or not it was for his NSC job or something else.

At the time the Resistance forces were withdrawing, the Nicaraguans were getting ready to make their first incursion at some point in time [deleted], and it is very likely that he pushed and said I need intelligence on this. He did that frequently and each time I had to respond in a way that I felt was in keeping with the law and in keeping with his position to work in the NSC. So if I did that and I don't recall that particularly, I vaguely recall in the back of my mind [deleted] carrying a map down or doing some work, it was not specific enough to be of any tactical use and was meant for briefings at the White House in his position with the NSC as far as I knew.

Mr. CAROME. Did Oliver North tell you at that time that these maps were going to be produced to Robert Owen?

[*C/CATF*]. No.

Mr. CAROME. Did you know at that time who Robert Owen was? [C/CATF]. I don't think at that early stage I knew who Robert Owen was. I would put my understanding of who Robert Owen was later in 1985.

Mr. CAROME. Specifically do you recall Oliver North calling you and telling you that the maps that were provided for Owen were

too large and that he needed smaller maps?

[C/CATF]. I don't recall him doing that. I don't recall him calling me and telling me maps were too large or that he had given them to Robert Owen.

Mr. CAROME. Would you please turn to exhibit 3. Exhibit 3 is a memorandum dated February 6, 1985, from Oliver North to Robert McFarlane. This is one of the documents that Mr. North saw fit to alter in November 1986. It refers to efforts to seize or sink the Nicaraguan merchant ship, the *Monimbo*. Were you familiar with the plans to seize or sink that ship in February 1985?

[C/CATF]. Yes. [Deleted].

Deleted].

Mr. CAROME. This memorandum specifically refers to providing intelligence information to Calero so that he could take action to seize or sink the ship.

Did you have knowledge of those plans?

[C/CATF]. That was not my operation. I don't think I had knowledge of it. I would not have condoned it, because that was clearly something that I wouldn't have been involved with at that point in time. [Deleted].

[Deleted].

Mr. CAROME. But you specifically do not recall, discussing the

provision of intelligence to Mr. Calero?

[C/CATF]. No. If it would have come up, I would have told him we can't do that. That was clearly something that we could not do. Mr. CAROME. Did you provide intelligence information to North

on [deleted] the *Monimbo* during the month of February, 1985?

[C/CATF]. Not specifically that I can recall, but I would add to you that that intelligence is readily available [deleted]. It's around.

Mr. CAROME. [Deleted]. [C/CATF]. [Deleted].

I didn't call and pass that intelligence and say, "Now, Ollie, you can pass it to Calero and do the job." You must remember—and I know it's difficult to understand—but you have got to remember that the key figure on policy in Central America during this period, I mean the key figure, was Oliver North.

Let me take a minute and tell the committee why. There was—the Central American Directorate in the National Security Council was Constantine Menges. The Assistant Secretary of State for Latin—Inter-American Affairs was Tony Motley. They fought like cats and dogs. Motley would not hold a meeting with Menges in the

room. They couldn't talk to each other.

Also, because of what had happened earlier at the negotations—the bilateral negotiations between the United States and Nicaragua, there was tension at play in the system. And, essentially by default, Central American policy in its execution and to a large degree in its formulation fell to Oliver North. He was the person that filled the void and who dealt with these things by dint of the void and by dint of personality, and he did it, and he was the person who moved and formulated and pushed and cajoled, and I think the committee has seen enough of his personality they can understand how that happened and why that happened.

When he called and asked me about that, the conversation probably went something like, "[C/CATF], McFarlane wants to know is this and this and this happening? Where is this? How is this going

down?"

[Deleted].

But he knew. There is very little—and you will hear this as the day goes on—that happened in Central America that I didn't talk to Ollie about, particularly up through sometime in April of 1986. I mean it was a very unabridged conversation, because he was the man on the National Security Council with the responsibility for the administration for this program.

So I might have done that. In fact, I probably did. But I didn't do it to somehow get the intelligence to Calero. Frankly, I don't do dumb things. It would have been a dumb thing to try to run this

operation [deleted].

Mr. Cohen. [Deleted]. [C/CATF]. [Deleted]. Mr. Cohen. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. CAROME. [C/CATF], when you provided intelligence information to Mr. North on these various occasions during the full Boland proscription, did you take any steps to ensure that he would not pass that intelligence to the Nicaraguan leadership? The Contra

leadership?

[C/CATF]. Not specifically, no. Except that I did at one point fairly early on—and I would have had—I had several times asked Ollie if he was sure everything he was doing was legal, and he assured me that he was doing everything legal and was within the law.

Mr. CAROME. By early 1985—let's say March 1985, I take it that you had a knowledge that Oliver North was playing a role in locating arms for the Contras; is that right?

[C/CATF]. By that time, I knew that Oliver North was playing a role in a—in supporting the overall Nicaraguan—in supporting or

facilitating support to the overall Nicaraguan Resistance.

Mr. CAROME. You knew he was playing a role in locating arms

for the Contras, didn't you?

[C/CATF]. In seeing that arms were provided to the Contras; I knew he was providing a role in seeing arms were provided or helping in facilitating provision of arms to the Contras and that was causing—and could affect—and caused that to happen but not that he was playing a specific and direct role in doing it, in executing it at that point in time.

Mr. CAROME. You also knew at that time that Richard Secord was playing a role in getting arms to the Nicaraguan Contras; is

that correct?

[C/CATF]. In a very narrow sense, yes. I think that——

Mr. CAROME. I refer you to exhibit 5.

[C/CATF]. Exhibit 5?

Mr. CAROME. Exhibit 5 is a cable dated March 5, 1985—do you have that in front of you, exhibit 5?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I do.

Mr. CAROME. That cable refers to a purchase in, I believe, [deleted] of ammunition of various sorts by Richard Second to be provided to the Contras; is that correct?

[C/CATF]. Yes, it is.

Mr. CAROME. And so by March of 1985, you were aware that Richard Second was involved in the provision of arms to the Contras; is that right?

[C/CATF]. I must have known that. I do not recall that specific cable. What I recall is a much earlier—I think earlier cable that talked about provision of SA-7s from [deleted]; but, yes, I knew that.

Mr. CAROME. When you received an intelligence report such as this, is that the kind of thing that you would then go and talk to

Oliver North about?

[C/CATF]. We would disseminate it through sensitive channels, and I would not necessarily pick up the telephone and talk to Oliver North about it, but he would see it and from time to time we might talk about it. He might call me and ask me about it and want to know further details about it as was his want to do.

Mr. CAROME. In your deposition before this—one of these committees on May 1st, 1987—and you have that in front of you—it's the binder right by the lights—you were asked a question at page 28, "Did you discuss with North whether Secord was working with

him in getting arms for the Contras?

"Answer: No. Not to my recollection. I stayed away from it. I didn't want to get involved, and I must tell you that I knew that Ollie would see that intelligence report."

That is referring to exhibit 5 here.

"I knew that Ollie would see that intelligence report, but I wouldn't just up and down and say, 'Look at this.'"

Was that your testimony that day?

[C/CATF]. That was my testimony. It is still my testimony to this date.

Mr. CAROME. Why would you not want to get involved in telling

Oliver North about an intelligence report such as this?

[C/CATF]. It reflects back to my comments that I made in my—earlier on in my testimony. I knew by—certainly by March of 1985, that I was in a precarious position, and I had to make each decision I made based on the laws and based on staying with—keeping the Agency within the bounds of legality that I have discussed. I didn't want to get too close to dealing with Oliver North on something like that because—as you said—by that point in time, I knew that Oliver North or had suspicions that Oliver North was playing a role—I thought at the point in time indirectly in facilitating support to the Nicaraguan Resistance, and I knew where I was legally, and I knew that I wanted to stay away from it and did not want to get involved with it and would have backed away from it unless confronted with the situation otherwise.

Mr. CAROME. Would you please turn to exhibit 6?

[C/CATF]. I have turned to exhibit 6.

Mr. CAROME. Exhibit 6 is another entry out of Oliver North's notebooks. It is dated March 7, 1985. It is headed "Meeting with [Deleted]." This exhibit appears to indicate that 2 days after receiving the intelligence which is exhibit 6, you in fact, did meet with Oliver North and did discuss in precise detail the nature of that intelligence report. Does that refresh your recollection and indicate to you that you did have discussions with North about that intelligence? It is virtually verbatim out of the cable.

[C/CATF]. It would appear that I did that. I don't recall having done it, but these notes would appear that I talked with him prob-

ably in responding to questions that he asked me.

Mr. CAROME. Let's turn to another subject.

[C/CATF]. But, I must tell you that I did not clearly sort of have the mental vision of that meeting having taken place and me doing that particular thing, and I must also tell you that it is not very likely that in a meeting with Oliver North that I would remember that kind of detail given the amount of traffic that was flowing over my desk. I mean, this is a lot of recall with me ticking these things down. I have got a pretty good memory, but unless I annotate something, I wouldn't have one, two, three, four, five ticks like that.

Mr. Carome. I take it you were aware by early 1985 Oliver North was assisting the Contras by routing money to various Contra leaders, is that right? [C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. CAROME. In essence, correct me if I am wrong, Oliver North was in some ways picking up where the Central Intelligence Agency had left off at the time Boland came into effect by way of

providing this money to various leaders, is that right?

[C/CATF]. I wouldn't—your statement is correct, in fact, but at the point in time, my level of knowledgeability, I wouldn't have put it that way. That was not my understanding. Ollie always maintained that he was the interface, the go-between between donors who were providing funds to the Resistance and left the impression that he was causing things to happen, but was not actually doing them himself.

What I thought he was doing, very frankly, until very late in the game, was facilitating donors, rich Americans, by and large, which was what most of the people around us thought, to donate funds to various individuals. But I did not know that he was actually paying the cash out himself or was controlling the accounts.

Mr. CAROME. For instance, you learned at RIG meetings in the first quarter of 1985, that [deleted] was receiving payments ar-

ranged by Oliver North, is that right?

[C/CATF]. Not at RIG meetings. I think Oliver North told me that in phone conversations or some other discussions because we talked very clearly in RIG meetings and in phone conversations about the impact in the political context of the cutoff in funding [deleted].

I think the members of the House Intelligence Committee remember those discussions very, very clearly. We talked about the political impact of that, what it would do to the political side of the program, what it would do to where we were going. Ollie was fully aware of it, and I had discussions with Ollie talking about the sort of, "Gees, this is just a terrible thing, isn't there some way this can be paid?" And Ollie said we can do that thing or it can be done, passive voice.

Mr. CAROME. Around the same time you also learned that Calero was receiving substantial sums being arranged by Oliver North, is

that correct?

[C/CATF]. No. I learned it earlier. I began to understand it earlier, and I think it is important to expand on that. As I said in my deposition, I began to see things happening with the Resistance forces that were not explainable. They didn't withdraw from Nicaragua like they were supposed to. They were feeding their troops.

They were doing things in December, particularly January, and

that surprised me.

And I began to look around for where things were going. It became clear to me that they had access to money. And as it became clear to me that they had access to money, I suppose someplace in January, February of 1985, I began to develop an understanding that Oliver North was in and around and had some role in this and that was when I began to develop with Clair George, who will follow me, the very clear policies that would govern our operations and my particular behavior, and I thought the behavior of our various [deleted] employees for the next 2½ years.

So the answer to your question is I knew it slightly earlier, but I didn't know that he was providing. I thought he was causing to be

provided.

Mr. CAROME. And you also learned around that same time, I takeit, that [deleted] was receiving payments arranged by Oliver North, is that correct?

[C/CATF]. That is a difficult question. Because-

Mr. CAROME. Let me refer you to exhibit 9. Exhibit 9 is another item out of Oliver North's notebooks. The first part of exhibit 9 is dated July 11. That is July 11, 1985. It says 10:00 o'clock, call from [C/CATF]. Get 25 K to [deleted].

Then it goes on. [C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. CAROME. Were you talking in July of 1985 with Oliver North about getting money to [deleted]?

[C/CATF]. We had been talking about money to [deleted]

throughout the spring of 1985. [Deleted].

We discussed it extensively. We decided it was probably legal to provide funds [deleted], but politically controversial, and our guiding light in those days was we will do nothing that is politically controversial because we want to build credibility with the Congress and be as straightforward as we can be and try to reinstate and to rid ourselves of some of these restrictions.

So we didn't fund [deleted], and I would think, my recollection is, by the spring of 1986 or 1985, there was probably a lot of discussion

about the impact of that.

It is entirely possible that I would have said, "Gee, [deleted] is telling us [deleted] needs \$25,000 to do something," but I don't recall, A, making a specific request to Oliver North to give [deleted] \$25,000. I remember later that he said he was paying [deleted]. This was after laws changed [deleted], but I was surprised in my own recollection when [deleted] told [deleted] had been receiving funds from Oliver North, because I really didn't have that in my psyche or in my mind.
Mr. CAROME. You don't deny that exhibit 9 here reflects your

making a phone call to Oliver North and saying "Get \$25,000?" [C/CATF]. I don't deny that is what it says. What I am telling you is that I don't recall having made that phone call in just those terms. I'm telling you it is entirely possible that I could have had that conversation with him, but I don't remember, and I would have not put it in those terms. It probably would have been in another sort of context.

I am trying to read the rest of this note and see if it reminds me of anything else.

That is my answer to the question.

Mr. CAROME. I would like to turn to another subject. Ambassador Tambs testified to this committee that before he took up his post as Ambassador to Costa Rica in July, 1985, Oliver North told him "We want to open a Southern Front," and he took the "we" in that instruction to open up the Southern Front, as coming from, emanating from, the RIG on which you sat.

Tambs and [deleted], both have testified to this committee that Tambs told [Castillo] of this instruction to open up the Southern Front and that Tambs encouraged [Castillo] to go out and speak to

the commandants in the South.

My question to you, [C/CATF], you talked to Ambassador Tambs before he left Washington to take up his post, didn't you?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did.

Mr. CAROME. Is it your testimony that you neither gave him an instruction to open up a Southern Front or that you had no knowledge that anyone else was giving him an instruction to open up a Southern Front?

[C/CATF]. My testimony is that I did not give him instructions to open up a Southern Front. What I think I said was—mine is not to instruct an ambassador. My deposition is very clear about that

meeting.

It was a bizarre meeting at a transit apartment on 14th Street in Northwest Washington. Ambassador Tambs was in his underpants. His wife was in her petticoat. The baby was crying. They were 20 minutes from going to catch their airplane. I said to myself, frankly, my God, I've never seen an ambassador quite like this. We talked about Costa Rica. We talked about the Contras. But an instruction, no. I didn't give him an instruction. It was a first encounter. I don't know why he thought I was an authority figure that would have done that. No. I did not give him an instruction to go down and open the Southern Front.

Mr. CAROME. To your knowledge, did anyone else give him such an instruction, including Oliver North or anyone else on the RIG,

Elliott Abrams?

[C/CATF]. I don't know the substance of discussions Elliott Abrams or Oliver North might have had with Ambassador Tambs prior to his departure for Costa Rica.

Mr. CAROME. Ambassador Tambs also testified to this commit-

tee---

[C/CATF]. Excuse me.

Mr. Carome. Ambassador Tambs also testified to this committee that in the summer of 1985, he was asked by Oliver North through your [deleted], to approach [deleted] regarding the construction of an airfield to—for use in support of the Contra resistance. Do you recall that occurring at that time?

[C/CATF]. No. I don't recall that occurring. I don't recall having

discussed that with [deleted] in the summer of 1985.

Mr. CAROME. Would you please turn to exhibit 10?

[C/CATF]. I'm there.

Mr. CAROME. Exhibit 10 is a cable from [deleted]. I'll use the pseudonym [Castillo] to facilitate declassification.

[Deleted] was asked and favorably responded to the idea of an airstrip [deleted].

Did you receive this cable in or around August, 1985?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did, obviously.

Mr. CAROME. Do you have any recollection of that?

[C/CATF]. I've read the cable many times subsequently. At the time this cable was brought to my attention, I didn't have a recollection of it. I was somewhat surprised. There is an extenuating circumstance for that, I think I said in my deposition. This was my last day before going on annual leave that particular summer and I don't recall having read the thing, but obviously I did read it and obviously I did draft a response to it, which we have discussed a couple of times.

Mr. CAROME. Your response is exhibit 11. Why don't we turn to

that

[C/CATF]. Let me make a point here that is a very important point, however. Note there is no director reference on here. That means it's coming from [deleted], self-generated; [deleted] and, therefore, it means that whatever happened there, happened as being generated from [deleted], not driven by something that happened from Washington.

Mr. CAROME. Did you view it as inappropriate that your [deleted] would be engaged [deleted] regarding the setting up of an airstrip?

[C/CATF]. I didn't feel it would be inappropriate for him to have knowledge [deleted]. I felt it would be, as is clear in my response to it, clearly inappropriate for CIA to be involved in anything to do with it given the strictures of the law at that particular point. [Deleted].

Mr. CAROME. But you certainly did not rebuke or criticize [Castillo] for having played a role in these discussions to encourage an

airstrip, did you?

[C/CATF]. Let me go back and review this cable. You used a

word that bothers me.

I don't see my [deleted] was in the meeting [deleted]. I see it saying [deleted] concurring—[deleted].

Mr. CAROME. [Deleted]. [C/CATF]. [Deleted]. Mr. CAROME. [Deleted].

[C/CATF]. [Deleted]. What we did then was go back out and we said we are gratified, but we made it very clear, this said we must emphasize [deleted] neither CIA or DOD can become involved neither directly nor indirectly in assisting [deleted] in implementing this new policy. This is for [deleted] to implement this new policy. We are authorized to share information, by that time the law had changed through its first iteration with the Resistance. It will be possible to brief them on this new [deleted] policy. [Deleted]. We are pleased, so on and so forth.

That was a clear and very concise statement of saying you can't

be involved with building an airstrip.

Mr. CAROME. Owen and [Castillo] have both testified that later that month, they went on a flight to look at possible sites for the airstrip. Did you know that that was going on?

[C/CATF]. Let's go through a little time warp here. I have been over and over and over the whole airstrip story in my mind, in tes-

timony before the grand jury, in testimony both sworn and unsworn with this committee, with the Tower Commission, and the first clear recollection I have of that airstrip is [deleted], in December of 1985 when I talked with [Castillo] about it on the veranda of [deleted], talked with [Castillo] about it.

Mr. CAROME. I want to get to that point.

[C/CATF]. I just do not know. So the answer to your question is, no.

Mr. CAROME. If you could turn to exhibit 15, please? Exhibit 15 is notes by Ambassador Duemling of an NHAO meeting on the 1st of October, 1985. You are listed as one of the people attending that meeting.

About a third of the way down, on page 2, there is a reference to a discussion of the airstrip being prepared under the heading [de-

leted].

Are you telling me you have no recollection of that subject of the

airstrip coming up at that meeting?

[C/CATF]. What I am telling you is that I have seen this before. I have read Ambassador—Assistant Secretary Elliott's testimony. I have read [Castillo's] testimony. It seems obvious to me that I must have been in and around discussions of that airstrip prior to December of 1985.

But I can tell you I remember something, I can conjure up a story, and I can see shadows in my mind, but I can't give you a straight recollection. No, I can tell you that this discussion took place and after reading this 6 times, I can probably begin to see it in my mind. But I don't recall it having been discussed in specific terms. I don't have a clear recollection of it until that December meeting where I discussed it on—with [Castillo]. I do not deny or am not saying I didn't hear about it earlier than that. But I don't recall it. I am sorry for that, because that's the big gaping hole in my testimony.

Mr. CAROME. Let's turn to the December 9th meeting briefly.

What did [Castillo] tell you about the meeting?

[C/CATF]. He said—what he said was that as I recall it, there is an airstrip being built and we talked about that and I said something to [Castillo] about, [Castillo], be careful; do you know what you are doing?

And he said, I know what I'm doing.

I said, be very careful. Keep your operations within the bounds of legality and watch yourself.

He said, [C/CATF] I know what I'm doing; don't worry about me.

I said, that is fine.

Mr. CAROME. And as you recollect that meeting, were you sur-

prised that [Castillo] was involved in the airstrip?

[C/CATF]. Worried and concerned and told him to be careful and to watch himself. I want to say a word—you keep watching the clock.

Mr. CAROME. I am given only a small amount of time to ask you

questions.

[C/CATF]. I think if the committee would indulge me and; counsel, I think it is important we get these things in context. [Castillo] was in the most difficult situation possible. He was in the Southern Front, [deleted]. He was next to a totally degenerate situation that

was just like the overboiled spaghetti. His situation was more difficult than mine, more difficult than [deleted] or [deleted], and he had to deal with decisions and situations that I hope no American citizen, certainly no American U.S. civil servant, ever gets put in the middle of having to deal with again in terms of the nutcracker I described earlier between the legislative, the executive and operational decisions that are real and emotional and people things. I wouldn't sit in criticism of any decision [Castillo] made. He made his decisions the best he could at that point in time. I might have done differently, I don't know. I wasn't there. I told him to watch himself, to keep it legal.

I was concerned about it, but in the final analysis, I trusted his judgment. You will hear that theme go on further as we talk more

about [Castillo].

Mr. CAROME. Did [Castillo] tell you who was building that airstrip at that time?

[C/CATF]. He did not.

Mr. CAROME. Did you ask him?

[C/CATF]. No, but probably because I assumed it would be private supporters to the Resistance. But I don't recall having asked him who was building the airstrip.

Mr. CAROME. Was there a senior interagency group meeting at some later point at which Oliver North showed you and others pho-

tographs of the [deleted] airstrip?

[C/CATF]. Yes, there was. It took place on the 7th floor in either the Secretary or Deputy Secretary's conference room. At the conclusion—I think at the conclusion of the meeting, Oliver North, and there were a gaggle of people there, showed pictures of the airstrip in [deleted] and its construction. It was clearly by that time under construction and I remember being somewhat shocked by the fact that he was passing around pictures to everybody saying look what was happening.
Mr. CAROME. Who was there?

[C/CATF]. I can't remember the entire group. Ambassador Duemling was there, I think. General Moellering was there. Colonel Crocker, I think Jim Michael must have been there, Elliott Abrams must have been there. I was there. There must have been another senior agency representative there although I am not entirely sure of that. Mr. Sanchez was there, and notetakers from various sections of the Department.

There must have been a senior, either Deputy or-Under Secretary or Deputy—probably Under Secretary Armacost chaired the meeting, given the location of it. But I don't recall him having been there. I don't have a clear picture. But there were 10 or 12 people

there.

Mr. Carome. You testified in your deposition that you thought it was dumb for Oliver North to pass out these photographs and talk

about the airstrip at that meeting. Why did you think that?

[C/CATF]. Because it clearly indicated an involvement that was something more than a facilitator at that point in time. As I said in my other testimony, as 1986 turned into the spring of 1986, I began to develop a pretty clear understanding of what Ollie was doing and that was something where he was just flashing out neon signs. That was where, to my recollection, and this is something that Counsel Liman was curious about, it is my recollection where I told Ollie, you ought to keep your mouth shut, you ought not to talk so much.

I read in Ollie's deposition that I said that sometime in 1984, and I have no recollection of that. But I have a clear recollection right after that meeting telling Ollie it was a dumb thing and he ought not to be showing those pictures around like that.

Mr. CAROME. Your concern was that Ollie North was talking

about it, not that he was doing it; is that right?

[C/CATF]. It was both. He was putting a lot of people in a very difficult position. I once again, rightly or wrongly—and this is where I will have to be judged—took the position, I don't want to know that, I don't want to get involved with it. I was caught in a difficult position. I was going to keep my agency and myself within the bounds of propriety and legality and I would do what I could but there were things that were beyond my powers, sort of the alcoholics creed comes to mind—God give me the strength to change what I can and to accept what I can't, and that is kind of where I

Mr. Carome. Did you report these discussions to your superiors at the Central Intelligence Agency?

[C/CATF]. I can't remember specifically reporting that discus-

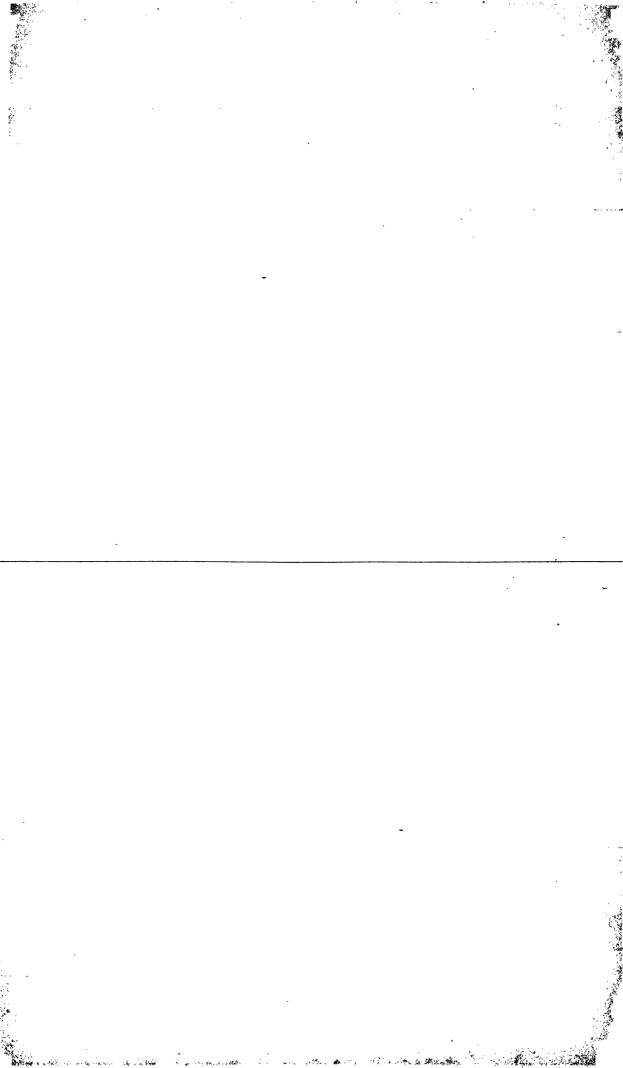
sion, but I from time to time discussed my concerns.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Carome, would this be a convenient time to recess?

Mr. CAROME. Yes, it would.

Chairman Hamilton. [C/CATF], we will recess now until tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock. May I remind everyone that we are in executive session and information learned here should not be discussed outside this room in any way.

We will reconvene at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning in this room. [Whereupon, at 5:30 p.m., the Select Committees adjourned, to reconvene at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 5, 1987.]



JOINT HEARINGS ON THE IRAN-CONTRA INVESTIGATION

Continued Testimony of C-CATF and Testimony of Clair George

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1987

House Select Committee To Investigate Covert Arms Transactions With Iran

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECRET MILITARY
Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition,
Washington, DC.

The Select Committees met, pursuant to call, at 9:00 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lee H. Hamilton (chairman of the House Select Committee) and Hon. Daniel K. Inouye (chairman of the Senate Select Committee) presiding.

Chairman Hamilton. The Select Committees will come to order. [C/CATF] returns as a witness this morning, and we will contin-

ue with questioning by Mr. Carome.

Mr. Carome.

Mr. CAROME. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning, [C/CATF].

CONTINUED TESTIMONY OF C/CATF, FROM AUGUST 4

[C/CATF]. Good morning.

Mr. CAROME. I take it that in the fall of 1985, the [deleted] was refusing to allow NHAO flights to go directly into [deleted] and that there were discussions at the RIG meetings that you attended about an alternative airbase to use and that in connection with those discussions, Oliver North indicated or identified [deleted] that could be used to continue the flights; is that correct?

[C/CATF]. That is correct. It was more early winter than fall,

November, December.

Mr. CAROME. When did you become aware Felix Rodriguez, otherwise known as Max Gomez, was a key operator working on [delet-

ed] project?

[C/CATF]. I know that Felix Rodriguez was in [deleted] in the fall, earlier in the fall of 1985, [deleted]. It was attendant to the discussions about arranging a transshipment facility that took place in November-December of 1985, that his name came up in the context of working in [deleted] as part of the transshipment operation.

Mr. CAROME. Would you please take a look at exhibit 15, the second page of that exhibit. This is an exhibit we looked at yesterday. It is minutes of a NHAO meeting dated October 1.

Do you have that in front of you?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. CAROME. On page 2, there is a reference, it said Mr. Green said to call Max Gomez. Do you recall at that October 1 meeting there was a discussion of Max Gomez operating out of [deleted]?

[C/CATF]. On October 1.

Mr. CAROME. That is correct. That is the date of these notes.

[C/CATF]. I don't recall that, no, I don't. On October 1, I don't believe that the problem, to the best of my recollection, I don't believe the problem with [deleted] had come into full blow yet and I don't recall, as I testified in my depositon, a Mr. Green.

Mr. CAROME. When did you become aware that the team at [deleted] was dropping lethal, as well as non-lethal supplies to the Nic-

araguan Contras?

[C/CATF]. Let me answer that in two parts. I would have understood that the team at [deleted] was transshipping lethal material from [deleted] or at least partial loads in small amounts in January or maybe late February, because we very much—we have talked a lot about the 10-percent rule and whether or not partial loads could have been mixed in that transshipment and I believe members of the committee will recall those discussions.

It would have been about that same time or maybe a little bit thereafter that I would have begun to see these flights were also

dropping into Nicaragua.

Now, I want to add that there was some [deleted] reporting that I have seen subsequently [deleted] which indicated that they were going to contract—arrange for a contract for handling their resupply problem, and I don't recall at the time having linked that with [deleted], with the drops inside. I subsequently do, but I would say I really began to understand that the people who were handling the transshipment out of [deleted] were also going to be doing other missions in January at some point in time.

Mr. CAROME. There is a reference, and I believe you have already referred to it, in this exhibit 15, to a Mr. Green. Felix Rodriguez has testified that Mr. Green was a code name being used in the arrangements later in 1985, for a lethal drop to the Contras. Do you recall the discussion at that October 1 meeting turning to the sub-

ject of a lethal drop being organized by Mr. Gomez?

[C/CATF]. I don't recall any discussions within the context of NHAO, and that would be within the context of the RIG where we discussed lethal drops, and I don't recall a Mr. Green and I think it is very important to establish at this juncture because we are going to be moving into this that there are parts of this story that I will know and there are parts of this story that I don't know, and I kind of phase in and out of it as I will testify as we go along.

Mr. CAROME. In late December 1985, you visited [deleted] with Lt.

Col. North; is that correct?

[C/CATF]. That is correct. And along with other members of the administration; that is correct.

Mr. CAROME. What was your role on that trip?

[C/CATF]. Whenever a team traveled to Central America, starting from January of 1985, and I believe actually before that, although I can't testify to that specifically, the administration tried to travel as a group to show some form of cohesiveness and unity, and generally there was a representative from the State Department, NSC, the CIA, almost all the time, DOD, and in this case there was a representative from NHAO because NHAO was the major participant. The purpose for that particular trip, the next trip had on it four people, it had Bill Walker representing State Department, a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central America, Oliver North from the NSC, Chris Arcos, the Deputy Chief of the NHAO office, and myself.

On all of those trips in those early days, my purpose was, A, to be there and to show continuity and, B, to provide intelligence, backup intelligence briefings and discussions on how things stood

with the Resistance and the dynamics of the situation.

The purpose of that trip was largely, as I recall it, to go to [deleted] and try to deal with what was then a major political problem between the Government of the United States and [deleted] that had tremendous spin-off on policy matters and on the whole NHAO operation.

Mr. CAROME. Felix Rodriguez has testified that not long before your trip to [deleted] in December, a SAT 707 had brought in a large shipment of lethal supplies that was being stored at the warehouse there at the time. Did you know when you were down there in [deleted] in late December that that shipment had been made?

in [deleted] in late December that that shipment had been made? [C/CATF]. I would have to review the intelligence reporting to see whether or not there was intelligence on it. I do not recall having a knowledge of it, and I was not told by anybody that it had come in there. So at the time we went to [deleted] it was my recollection I was ignorant of that flight, unless there is a piece of intelligence out there that some time in 1985 I read reporting that flight.

I do recall some reporting about 707s flying lethal equipment in, but I don't recall it specifically to the [deleted], to that [deleted], to

a [deleted] flight.

Mr. CAROME. There was large quantities of lethal materials at [deleted], at the time you were there apparently. Did you see those materials?

[C/CATF]. No, I wanted—excuse me. [Witness conferring with counsel.]

[C/CATF]. Let me describe to you the [deleted] meeting which was a brief stopover and the [deleted] meeting which was the major purpose for going. The trip was very fast. As I recall, we did it in a day.

We went to [deleted], we stayed there, had meetings with [deleted] and then we went to [deleted]. Bill Walker and I stayed in an anteroom along with [deleted], as I have testified in my deposition, and I cannot remember whether or not the Ambassador stayed

there or not.

I am just very vague on that point. And Oliver North went off for a private meeting with [deleted]. I did not go to that meeting. I did not leave the general environs of the waiting room at the airport. At that meeting was when I delivered very clear instructions to our [deleted] that we were not to play a role in the management of the [deleted] transshipment operations—I want to say specifically the NHAO transshipment operation because that is what we were setting up there as the NHAO transshipment operation out of [deleted]—and that they were only to report in a very fixed term because our role there, as members of the committee, once again, will recall, was to report on the activities and to verify flights landing, flights taking off and so on and so forth.

And I gave him very clear instructions that that is what we were to do and our role was very, very, very proscribed and that was very difficult for us to understand because we aren't used to doing those kinds of things, we are a proactive organization, and I think you will see in January and February that there were some problems in [deleted] where [deleted] was trying to figure out what its role was and what was going on down there. But I didn't partici-

pate in the meeting, I didn't see any arms there.

Arms being present were not discussed to the best of my recollection on the airplane down, on the airplane back. The transshipment operation and putting in the warehouses for NHAO material and so on and so forth were discussed, the airplane, among ourselves and I presume with the meeting with Oliver North and [deleted].

Mr. CAROME. In January 1986, I take it Oliver North recommended that Mr. Gadd handle the NHAO flights and you looked into Mr. Gadd yourself, and then recommended to Admiral Duemling

that Gadd be used on the flights; is that correct?

[C/CATF]. Not exactly. And I can't put specificity into the entire sort of chronology. I would say that the discussions relating to—well, let me set it in context with the problem that had taken place. The carrier that had been taking supplies down, Conner Air, was disenfranchised and [deleted] said no more Conner Air into [deleted] and they then said no more NHAO flights into [deleted] because this is a quack operation, you can't handle it clandestinely. There had been a couple of problems, NBC or public media television crews on the first two flights, a breakdown on the third flight, so [deleted] said absolutely stop it and Conner Air—they said Conner Air couldn't fly in.

So NHAO was faced with the problem of finding a new contrac-

tor.

To the best of my recollections, during the Tuesday meetings, and there were lots of them, and they were intense because a problem that was critical to continuing the Resistance was just literally moribund, it was dammed up, things were coming in, nothing was going out. Concern was high, almost on the edge of panic.

[Deleted].

That is where the [deleted] transshipment operation came into being, at meetings in the RIG sometime in December.

During those meetings, it is my recollection that the discussions of Richard, of Gadd, came up as a possible alternative supplier.

They were discussed rather extensively and attendant to those discussions I was asked to go out and talk to Gadd, see what he was all about and to find out whether or not he was a viable trans—or a viable shipper.

Mr. CAROME. North was pushing Gadd, wasn't he?

[C/CATF]. Yes, he was.

Mr. CAROME. Did your background check reveal that Gadd would be working with Secord, Rafael Quintero, and Southern Air Transport?

[C/CATF]. No, because what we found out from Gadd, and I

wanted the meetings—there's another factor here now.

My recollection is my meetings with Gadd, which were two to the best of my knowledge, the best of my recollection, took place in

January-February.

Now, another dynamic had taken place in January and February. We were also then planning for the vote in March on the \$100 million program of aid, and I had been tasked to come up with detailed planning as backup for briefings of Members of Congress and discussions and saying how we were going to spend that money. We were actively looking at how we would handle air operations at that point in time, [deleted]. And we were talking to people. So my purpose in talking to Gadd was really to see what he was in terms of dealing with Ambassador Duemling and to find out whether or not he was a viable contractor for the longer term.

What we found out was that he was not. We found out that he did not have an operator's certificate, he was essentially a jobber, he was subleasing aircraft out from other areas; that when you probed for details of his operations, he backed off and got very mystic, talked about classified DOD projects and couldn't tell a lot

of background and so on and so forth.

And I think that if you go to the testimony of General Secord, you will see that Mr. Gadd and General Secord subsequently reported they weren't very happy with those conversations because we kept probing for details, and my man, who handled the technical sides of those meetings, was a real stickler and he didn't like what he saw, and he came back and said, A, we don't want to deal with this guy, wrong airplanes, fly-by-night operation, better people; and B, you should tell Ambassador Duemling that this is not a guy that he needs, should deal with after this [deleted] transshipment operation is over. So that's the essence.

But to answer your specific question, I didn't uncover or see a

connection with Secord at that point in time.

Mr. CAROME. I believe in your previous deposition, you said that your check into Gadd, set off, what in your mind you called "shyster alarms;" is that right?

[*C/CATF*]. That's right.

Mr. CAROME. Did you go and warn Admiral Duemling to not use Gadd?

[C/CATF]. What we talked about was Gadd was into the [deleted] transshipment operation, but as soon as we were out of it, let's get away from Gadd. As soon as that was over and as soon as we could, I said as soon as you can disengage, you ought to disengage from Gadd.

There was a specific conversation sometime in March, and I don't put my finger on it when [deleted] said, OK, you guys have your act together; you can now fly directly into [deleted]. Duemling said, should we get away from Gadd, [deleted]? And I said, by all means get away from him, get out to the other contractors, and if you look at the NHAO records, I think you'll see in March that di-

versification taking place and that was directly because I didn't like what I saw with Gadd.

[Deleted] didn't like what I saw with Gadd and the vibes were all

Mr. CAROME. By February, 1986, I take it you knew that Felix Rodriguez was acting under the direction, or at least influence of Oliver North; is that right?

[C/CATF]. Influence is the right word.

Mr. CAROME. And in fact, in February, 1986, you were at [deleted] on one occasion and actually met and had a confrontation with Mr. Rodriguez; is that right?

[C/CATF]. I had a confrontation with him. I sought him out. I

sought him out.

Mr. CAROME. What was happening was that a plane was about to go to [deleted], you didn't want that to happen, you said "don't do that," he said, "Well, Oliver North has told me to do it." You got North on the phone, and finally had to get North to give him an instruction not to take a plane to [deleted]; is that right? [C/CATF]. That's essentially it. There is a lot more detail. I know

time is a factor. I won't go into the detail. In broad strokes, yes.

Mr. CAROME. So by this time, early 1986, you were well aware that the same people who were handling the humanitarian flights for NHAO to include Gadd and Rodriguez, were also shipping lethal equipment to the Contras?

[C/CATF]. February-March, yes. Began to develop that picture,

yes.

Mr. CAROME. The committees have been told this [deleted] operation, starting in the spring of 1986 and continuing through the Hasenfus flight in September-October, 1986, were flying lethal supplies to the Southern Front forces. When did you first learn of that?

[C/CATF]. I knew that they were. I probably learned from reporting from [deleted] that they were attempting to do it sometime in March, in March, I would think.

Mr. CAROME. Would you please turn to exhibit 20. Exhibit 20 are a few pages out of the deposition of Mr. Dutton. I would like you to turn to the last page of that exhibit, page 82.

[C/CATF]. I beg your pardon?
Mr. CAROME. The last page of the exhibit, which is page 82. I

would like to read a few questions and answers.

Colonel Dutton—this is a question from counsel. "Colonel Dutton, what was the role of the CIA in your September operation?"

"Answer:"—

[*C/CATF*]. September of 1985 or 1986?

Mr. CAROME. This was September, 1986, he was referring to.

"Answer: I think in September, I can't say that it was that much different than at anytime. [Deleted]" —that's [Castillo]—"was critical to us throughout the operation and [Castillo] remained involved with us throughout the operation."

And I skip down to the middle of the page.

The question: "Let me ask you this question: Could your successful missions and air drops to the Southern Front in September. could those have been accomplished without [Castillo's] assistance?

"Answer: No way."

My question to you: At what point did it become evident to you

that your [deleted] was playing the role Mr. Dutton describes here? [C/CATF]. Well, first off, I don't want to speak in definitive terms because I don't know the full range in my mind of what [Castillo's] exact involvement was. That's a very complicated question you have asked, and I think I have to go back to May of 1986 to answer that question, because of a sequence of events that took

place.

In May of 19—we knew in May and even before, in late April, I believe, and I would have to check the traffic, there were attempts by the private benefactors from [deleted] to fly flights into the Southern Front. We were asked, and I think that you have and we have discussed many times, for information on vectors and flights to move things down there and that information was very clearly to provide to the Southern Front in the context of the law, which had now changed dramatically. The Boland Amendment had gone the wrong way; the indirect language was—we were in a leaning posture now we had in hard-core Boland, modified Boland, and we were providing intelligence that could be used for resupply flights and for the various Resistance forces.

We were deriving similar intelligence for the FDN in the north as well. I knew that [deleted] was getting that information through the—I thought through the Resistance forces into the using element, and I knew the using element to be those people flying the

flights out of [deleted].

I did not know that he was directly involved in those flights at that point in time or dealing with the private benefactors at that point in time. Had I known that I would not have condoned that.

We had a meeting that was critical to this whole endeavor in March—late May of 1986, in [deleted].

Mr. CAROME. I would like to get to that meeting.

[C/CATF]. I think that before we get to your question in September, we have to cover the meeting in May.

Mr. Carome. I want to cover that, go through it point by point. If

we haven't covered what you want to say, let me know.

[C/CATF]. Go ahead with the question, because I don't want to

get to September before we cover May.

Mr. CAROME. I am going back to March. Would you please look at exhibit 21, a March 15, 1986, cable from the Central American Task Force to [deleted], and [deleted]. It refers to an ammunition resupply for Southern Front leaders.

In paragraph 2, it says "Suggest this drop be expedited by the FDN to speed up the development of NAC forces and addresses

assist as appropriate.

You were there directing your [deleted] to assist in a lethal drop

to the Southern Front?

[C/CATF]. I was directing them to be—to do what they could as appropriate to urge that that happen.

Mr. Carome. Later in March, I take it, you went with Colonel

North and Elliott Abrams and others to [deleted] and [deleted].

[C/CATF]. That is correct. It is very, very important in the context of my previous answer to go back and study the changes that took place with regard to authorizations in the Intelligence Author-

ization Act of fiscal year 1986 and our actions in this cable were totally consistent with the interpretation of that act as of that time. And I want to make that very, very clear, that this cable which we signed here, and which I signed, was according to our interpretation consistent with the authorizations of the Agency in the laws governing our activities at that time.

Mr. CAROME. Did you understand that your [deleted] could specif-

ically assist in lethal flights?

[C/CATF]. I understood that they could provide information, advice and guidance that related to the resupply of materiel-not material—materiel—as long as it was not tantamount to specific or integral, I think is the word, to specific military operations in Nicaragua. It was generic, we could say you ought to do this or that, you ought to do the other thing, you could do this. We had a lot of discussion about this, and Chairman Hamilton will recall it.

There was tremedous controversy as to whether or not the language of the Senate was—the language of the bill was meant to be broader or narrower. The Senate Committee, Intelligence Committee, interpreted it as broader; the House as narrower. There was an exchange of letters with the then-Director and on our legal opinion, we went with the Senate Intelligence Committee interpretation, which was broader. That was the way we saw it, and there was a lot of discussion. I was involved in that discussion to make sure that we were within the bounds of propriety and the law.

I will also tell you, and this is important for the committees to understand, that by May or—by January or February when those laws changed, I was in the Agency, Clair George and I were letting the reins out. We were very, very cautious politically in the first 9 months under hard-core Boland. We were still exceedingly cautious during that intervening period when we were operating under the slight modification of Boland in the fiscal year 1985 supplemental

that authorized the \$27 million program.

When Boland went away and the fiscal year 1986 Intelligence Authorization Act came into play and we were allowed to provide intelligence, advice, and communications equipment and advice on logistics operations as long as it was not integral to a very painful

sort of construction, we let the reins out a little more.

I want to make a point here that is critical. Go back to the committee's first testimony of General Secord. You will recall him saying that there were times when we thought the Agency, I think particularly in the February-March timeframe, the Agency was going to come into this thing, and then they drew back, and he went to complain to the Director. Well, he was exactly right. I started to lean into this thing in February and March, and along about March, after my meetings with Gadd, I said "I am too far out, I don't like where I am going," and I started to pull back. I started to pull back, and that is when General Secord complained. I did it because I didn't like the feel of where I was.

I think you will begin to see in this sometime in March and April a pulling back, trying to feather an engine and get out from where we were. By my own admission, if I got someplace that is controversial, it was in February and March where I let the reins out, I got a little too rambunctious, like a colt that got out of the barn to play, and I pulled myself back in. I didn't do it all myself.

My task force lawyer was whispering like Jiminy Cricket in my ear. I probably got us a little too far forward-leaning at a point in

time and then pulled us back.
Mr. Cohen. Could I clarify one point. You refer to the fact that General Secord complained as to your activities or lack of activities. You didn't know about it at the time?

[*C/CATF*]. No.

Mr. Cohen. So you were never told that you were pulling back too much by anybody?

[C/CATF]. No. We went over that in my depositon. I was kind of

interested to see that, actually.

Mr. Cohen. I will pursue that a little more when I question.

Mr. CAROME. On your March trip, you learned that [Castillo] was passing information directly to the people who were running the [deleted] supply operation, is that correct? You testified to that fact in your depositon.

[C/CATF]. Can I refer to my depositon?

Mr. CAROME. Page 114, of the first deposition—it should be in one of those books right in front of you there. I will read the question and answer at the top of page 114. "Question: When did you become aware that there was a problem with [Castillo] regarding his relationship with the private benefactors?"
"Answer: March, 1986, and with [C/LA] when he discussed it in

[deleted] is when we knew there was a problem."

[C/CATF]. The discussions with [C/LA]—that is 28 May or the late May meetings in [deleted]. If I said March, I misspoke myself. Yes, I misspoke myself there. That should be May. I am sorry. [C/ LA] was still in [deleted] at that point in time, and the meeting that took place took place in late May of 1986. I am sorry for that.

My counsel reminds me that I just saw this deposition in its pristine form on Friday, and I have noticed a couple of things. For instance, Ambassador Duemling is not an admiral, et certera. I will

have a chance to make a correction. I didn't see that.

Mr. CAROME. We have received substantial testimony and documentary evidence that in March of 1986, [Castillo] was communicating using a KL-43 encryption device directly with Mr. North and directly with the [deleted] operators. You were not aware of that at the time?

[C/CATF]. I was not aware of that. I became aware that [Castillo]

had a KL-43 in October of 1986.

Mr. CAROME. I take it that you were aware of an early April flight of lethal materials to the Southern Front, is that correct?

[C/CATF]. We went over that in some detail in my depositon. It would appear from the traffic that came in and out that I would have been aware that flight took place because there were cables going back and forth. At the time it was brought to my attention in the deposition I didn't remember it, but having read those at the time, I must have been aware of it when it was happening.

Mr. CAROME. Those cables are exhibit 25, consisting of [Castillo] requesting intelligence for this lethal drop. Do you know whether

or not you provided the intelligence requested there?

[C/CATF]. If he requested it, in probability we did.

Mr. CAROME. Please turn to exhibit 26. Exhibit 26 is a KL-43 message from Oliver North apparently to Mr. Secord. It refers to the lethal flight we just discussed. It says about five or six lines down, in describing the plan for the flight, "have therefore developed an alternative plan which [deleted] has been briefed on and in which he concurs." [Deleted] is your code name, is that correct?

[C/CATF]. Yes, it is.

Mr. CAROME. Did you receive a briefing on this planned lethal

flight, and did you concur in it with Oliver North?

[C/CATF]. I have no recollection of having received that briefing or of having concurred in it. I certainly wouldn't have approved it, because I thought it was the folly of first order for American pilots to fly into Nicaragua an L-100—I would have known that L-100 had to be a SAT L-100 or an airplane leased from them, and I would have said that is a dumb idea.

Mr. CAROME. Why would Oliver North say you concurred in a

plan---

[C/CATF]. I don't know why he said that. The most I can tell you, and this is really hard-core speculation, is we might have had a conversation about the problem in general, and he might have said something about, "Hey, what if this or this happened," and I said, "Gee, Ollie, it sounds OK to me." That is the most it would have been, and I don't recall having done that.

Mr. Carome. Exhibit 28 is a cable from [Castillo] in which he reports on the lethal flight immediately after it occurred. At the bottom of paragraph 3, it says "Arrangements made in strict secrecy to avoid past experience of leaks due to inevitable contacts be-

tween UNO/FARN and UNO/FDN."

Didn't this cable indicate to you that [Castillo] was right there at

the center of the operations for this lethal drop?

[C/CATF]. Let me explain to you that I, [deleted] and in [deleted] were right in the middle of all, right in the middle of it. It was going on around us. We saw parts and glimpses of it, and as I testified before, we were right in the middle of the nutcracker, and we knew we were there, and we knew we were in an awkward position, and I thought each one of my [deleted] and two out of three were politically sophisticated, smart enough, and had steady enough judgment that they were not going to get in the middle of it.

I want to make a point—go back to the Tayacan manual. I came into the task force at the time of the Tayacan manual, and I sat through the IG investigation, and I saw the devastating impact of five letters of reprimand going to the task force chief, [Castillo] who was then a task force officer, [deleted] GS-13 who was his deputy, a staff writer, a contract writer who was just trying to do what was right and two other people. When I came into the task force, I told Clair George, we discussed it at some length, I want to structure the task force so that all the liability, the political heat, falls on me. I don't want anybody else to get in the way of this thing so that when the time comes to stand up someplace, I am accountable, me, and I don't want anybody else to have to take the heat, and I meant in that also my Division Chief, to the degree possible, and also Clair George.

I had two people that got out in front of me for reasons that I still don't entirely understand. One was [Castillo], and one was our [deleted], and those are the two things, along with one other thing I

think we will discuss, that troubled me the most about what hap-

pened that should not have happened.

The only person that should be sitting in front of this committee answering questions should be me. I told the Tower Commission, and as I told the grand jury, and as I think I told Mr. Barbardoro in the depositon, I knew in November 1984 that I was going to be hauled in front of some board accountable for what I did and what happened, and I wanted only one person to have to take the heat for it, me.

I had my [deleted] get out ahead of me and do things under his own volition that I did not know of, and I think the record is very clear, and he was purposefully circumventing the chain of command to get around me. Frankly, I thought he was smart enough

to do them in a way that was within the bounds of the law.

I said "Stay inside the law, support the administration." There was a way he could have done it. If you want me to, I will tell you how he could have done it. He should have done it as it was done in [deleted], he should have buffered himself with the Resistance forces.

He should have said to whoever was [deleted] look, you deal with that man over there, just go and he could have introduced them and put that buffer in between him just like happened in the North and then he could have provided his intelligence, his advice, and his guidance within the scope of the law to that individual. and that individual could have passed it on to whatever contractor or private benefactor he wanted to, and then it becomes legal.

It doesn't become technically within the broad consensus someplace, no, but it is legal and it supports the administration and stays within the confines of the law. It is exactly what we did in [deleted] throughout all of this period, actually even a little bit before this. You come to the KL-43, in preparation for this testimony, we sat absolutely almost speechless when it just dawned on us why didn't he give the KL-43 to his communicator in the Resistance. His problem goes away. I don't have an answer for that. He made his decisions. As I said earlier, I won't criticize those decisions.

Mr. CAROME. You think it would have been proper to give a U.S.-

provided encryption device-

[C/CATF]. I wouldn't have given it to them. I don't know what I would have done there, but I don't think it was proper to have taken it and I think if he was concerned about it he could have gotten out from under the load of having it done. We were giving at that time and had authorization to give to the Resistance U.S. encryption devices. [Deleted] as authorized by Congress as discussed intensively in the days leading up and during the conference, the committee conference on the Intelligence Authorization Act in November and December of 1985. And that is what we did and that is how he could have solved that problem and kept himself out of the middle of it, I think.

And hindsight is always 20–20 and all those cliches, that is how I would have solved it. It is how I thought he was doing it, how I thought he should have done it. I was astounded at the May meeting and I have been astounded subsequently to see what happened

and frankly, I am upset by it. It should not have happened.

Mr. CAROME. [Castillo] has testified that shortly after the April lethal drop he told your superior, [C/LA], of what he was doing precisely, making contacts with the team at [deleted], that he was using a KL-43 to do so.

Did you know that [C/LA] has been so informed in April? [C/CATF]. I didn't know at the time that [C/LA] had been so informed in April. [C/LA] did not discuss that with me. He certainly didn't tell me that he had a KL-43 or an encryption device and I don't recall discussing in any detail the contacts directly with the private benefactors at [deleted]. I don't know what [C/LA] told [Castillo] at the meeting. That is for the committee to talk to [C/LA]and [Castillo] about and you will have to compare those testimonies.

The fact is that the KL-43 I am certain was never told to me, as to the best of my recollection we didn't discuss the direct contacts with the private benefactors. At that time I was far more concerned about my [deleted] and a [deleted] there who is in a word obstreperous, far senior to me, a difficult personality to deal with and we were having a little trouble holding him in and keeping that setup the way we wanted it.

Mr. CAROME. By May of 1986 you knew that [Castillo] was deal-

ing directly with the [deleted] operators, is that right?
[C/CATF]. By late May of 1986 at the meeting in—actually it was in [deleted], I was a little surprised in what I heard but I would have known there that [Castillo] felt that he was dealing directly with them or was much closer to them than anybody else. The meeting went like this.

First of all, [C/LA] took control of the meeting. It surprised me. I was taken aback by it for two reasons, first the force with which he came on and secondly, that he did that because I was used to sort of being the preeminent person and here he was playing a much different role and the dynamics threw me, and I was trying to

adjust to it.

I didn't say a lot at the meeting to the best of my recollection. The points were we have to stay away from the private benefactors, that is trouble in the making, we don't want to be anyplace around it, so don't stop it but don't get involved with it.

Mr. CAROME. Don't stop it?

[C/CATF]. Don't try to put a pencil in the spoke, just don't get involved with it.

Mr. CAROME. But you knew he was involved. Were you telling

him to change what he was doing?

[C/CATF]. Don't stop the private benefactors, is what I meant, from doing their thing, but don't get involved with it. That was our instruction. [Deleted], do you have a problem, no. [Deleted], not the one there in March, [deleted], do you have a problem. No. It was perfectly clear to me I don't want anyplace near this. My problem was in my political dynamic in [deleted]. I don't want to get sideways with the firms, Rodriguez has a good relationship with these people, and I don't want him as my enemy. Meet with Felix and say I am your friend, but I am not going to be involved and back

That was done. [Castillo] said I have a problem, I have an information flow problem here and I need a way to fix this and the way to fix it is to put a communicator at [deleted] and if I can put a UNO South communicator at [deleted], then my problem goes

away.

The decision that came out of the meeting was, [Castillo], go back and see if you can train, give equipment to and cause to be stations in [deleted] a UNO South communicator, and that is where we left it.

Mr. CAROME. It turns out that that communicator was not set up, is that right?

[C/CATF]. It was never set up.

Mr. CAROME. You knew it wasn't set up?

[C/CATF]. Let me make a point—I will make the point in a minute.

Mr. CAROME. Exhibit 33 is a cable from you I take it to [Castillo] dated July 12, 1986. This is the cable in which [Castillo] is being told that for political reasons the communicator is not going to be put in place and that —that is essentially what the cable says.

Do you recall sending this cable out?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I do. I recall this cable very clearly.

Mr. CAROME. [Castillo] has testified that he did not see this cable as telling him to cease and desist his contacts and his role with the resupply operators in [deleted]. Do you see the cable that way?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I do. If you will indulge me for a moment, I want to look up a piece of documentation I would like to insert into the record, and it will take me just a minute and then I want to make some comments on this point. I would like to insert this in the

record in partial answer to your cable. Let me read it.

As I understand, this is a KL-43 message. I think it is—I don't know who is the —Secord I think is the originator. I don't know who it is going to but it says, "Our understanding CIA, Steele and possibly Ambassador had a long meeting over last 2 days"—this is dated 30 May. "Results thus far. [Castillo] can no longer speak to anyone, including Ralph, on operational matters. CIA says there will be one operator/controller sent here. [Castillo] must turn in his KL-43, we don't know about Steele's. In [Castillo's] conversation with Ralph last night, he said he will be his only means of support, none will come from [deleted]. Do not know yet what Steele's role will be in future. Evidently CIA has done much discussing with Washington lawyers on this and are concerned with their legal status in this program. Know you have the same concern for our position, but can work out with Goode."

I think this is from Dutton to Secord.

Another cable I also want to put into the record, 28 May-

Mr. Cohen. Would you clarify how you got that?

Ms. McGinn. They were provided to us by the committee, all the

declassified exhibits.

[C/CATF]. This is a 28 May message which I released to our [deleted] and [deleted] "headquarters wishes to reaffirm with station guidelines that no repeat no [deleted] materiel or monetary support can be provided to UNO/FDN or UNO/South representatives [deleted]. Station can provide advice and commo equipment as approved by headquarters, and can engage in intelligence exchange as approved by headquarters."

I believe very strongly that there is a cause and effect relationship between these two messages and the meeting at [deleted], and I think it is clear from those messages that [Castillo] got the problem and that he had to break.

Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, those will be made part

of the record.

[C/CATF]. Let me make another point here. The day before [Castillo] talked to the—[C/LA] in April in [deleted], my task force attorney, [deleted], was in [deleted] the day before. In the meeting with [C/LA] as I understand it from [Castillo's] testimony and as I understand it from my discussion with [C/LA], [Castillo] said, I need some legal guidance here. I need to know what to do on this thing. Why didn't he ask the attorney? This man right back here, [deleted] is the guy who would have written the guidance. He was there the day before. I can't answer why he didn't ask. That is the guy we would have turned to and he was there 1 day before and it never came up. I am mystified by this and this is one of three things that troubles me the most about this whole endeavor, because something went wrong someplace. I can't tell you what went wrong. I can't tell you why it went wrong.

If you will go back and read all the traffic, and I won't insert it into the record, we made a concerted effort. We went to train and select the man, there is communications about getting the man a visa, getting him down there and then came the cable, we are going to have to pay for his housing and his support and his transportation to [deleted]. My task force attorney came to me and said [C/CATF], if you do that you are over the line, that is material support and that takes you too far and you have come too far politically in terms of credibility with the Congress and where you are going in the legislative process to take that chance, don't do it.

I wrote the cable, I said, "All right, go write me a cable that stops it," and that was this cable, and this cable was meant to be within the context of all that's gone before, and it was clear to us we were saying again, don't get there, just ride it our. Find another way but don't do it because it crosses the line, it constitutes materiel or material support to those people at [deleted], and we were being very strict. We wouldn't provide a car to the FDN communicator there or this or that. That's the way it was meant. If it is misinterpreted, then that's a problem that comes with the written—word and not being together, and I'm sorry it was misinterpreted. For our mind it was supposed to be clear.

I know that in your testimony and discussion with [Castillo] this was seen as a CYA cable. Trying to get out from under the load and say, hey, guys, fix it. I know there has been a lot of criticism about me about this cable. That's the context it was in, that's what it meant to do. It may have been poorly written. It was clear to me,

it was clear to all the rest of us.

What I was saying to him was, "you can't do it that way; you have to stand down. If you can't get him there with a visa, don't get him there. We're not going to do it."

Mr. CAROME. This cable left [Castillo] without a solution to the problem that you had discussed at the May meeting, didn't it? [C/CATF]. It left him without the May solution, that's right.

Mr. CAROME. And it also says, "To date we have maintained our distance from the private benefactors." That wasn't quite right. You knew [Castillo] had direct contact with the private benefactors.

didn't vou?

[C/CATF]. I knew that he had been in contact with them. I saw that out of the May meeting. I was not sure at that point in time of the depth or scope of the contact. I had no idea they were like they were. I thought we had fixed that problem and had pulled back away from it and considered it a blip on the screen that we had gone back and corrected the record as it was and fixed it. I felt fairly good about where we were with the private benefactors at that point in time, with the exception of where I felt I had gotten out a little too far ahead of myself in February and pulled myself back. But I still thought that we were in a defendable position both politically and legally at that point in time, and that's really what that's saying.

Mr. CAROME. The flights continued after this cable, didn't they,

the lethal drops to the Southern Front?

[C/CATF]. Yes, they did.

Mr. CAROME. And you knew that [Castillo] was continuing to monitor those flights and play the role that he had played before, didn't you?

[C/CATF]. I knew he was monitoring those flights, but I really honestly thought he had fixed a way so he was not in the middle of

the things. I did not think he was in the middle. Mr. CAROME. How do you think he had fixed it?

[C/CATF]. I thought he would go through one of two ways. I thought he would either go through the FDN or do it the way I thought before, put an intermediary between himself and the private benefactors.

Mr. CAROME. Did you check and see whether or not he had done

so?

[*C/CATF*]. No.

Mr. CAROME. In July of 1986, did you have a discussion with Oliver North in which he offered or suggested the Central Intelligence Agency purchase the assets, the planes being used by the [de-

leted team?

[C/CATF]. I don't know if it was July of 1986, but in the summer of 1986, after the authorizing legislation passed the House of Representatives and it was fairly certain we would have a bill, that was discussed many times, once with Oliver North directly with me, once with Clair George, once with Director Casey and once at a meeting at the Pentagon, and there were a number of discussions on that. So let us accept if it wasn't in July, it was on or about July, yes.

Mr. CAROME. Who was the proposed seller of these assets?

[C/CATF]. He didn't say.

Mr. CAROME. What was the proposed price? [C/CATF]. I don't recall. I don't recall him mentioning a price. He just said, "You ought to buy those airplanes." I've seen prices of \$2 million and \$4.2 million subsequent to that, but I don't recall him having mentioned a price at that point in time.

Mr. Carome. What was your position as to whether or not this

should happen?

[C/CATF]. My position was very, very clear. We were not going to have anything to do with what went before. As I said, and as will probably come out in subsequent testimony, by May or certainly June, I was not unlike Tennessee Williams', "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." I did not like what I was seeing; I was uncomfortable, and I was back-pedaling, trying to disengage, and I specifically said, "Look, I don't want to contaminate the new program with anything that's got any clutter from the past. I'm not going to buy those." I was relating back to my conversations with Gadd, back to some other things that I had seen in May that bothered me, and I wanted to start over with a clean sheet.

We had already figured out how we were going to supply our air operations and for both operational and political reasons, I wasn't going to touch those airplanes at all, and I told everybody that and

was very clear about it.

Mr. CAROME. In August of 1986 you attended a meeting around August 14, I believe, in Don Gregg's office; is that correct?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did.

Mr. CAROME. And also present were Bill Walker, Admiral Corr, Ray Burkhardt, Bob Earl, Sam Watson and possibly Colonel Steele; is that right?

[C/CATF]. Yes, to the best of my recollection. Mr. CAROME. How long was that meeting? [C/CATF]. Forty-five minutes or under.

Mr. CAROME. And the subject matter of that meeting was the inner workings of the resupply operation we have been talking

about, wasn't it?

[C/CATF]. It was, as I recall, a meeting of two things. First off, I got beaten up very badly for my assessment of Felix Rodriguez. A lot of time was spent there by Don Gregg and Ambassador Corr convincing me Felix Rodriguez was a good guy and both of our [deleted] and me who were working on derivative impressions were unjustly critical of Felix Rodriguez and, secondly, going into the fact that the people running the private benefactor operation were no-goodnicks of various ilk, Felix was a good guy. There was a confrontation between them, as I recall it, and a lot of this is reconstructed from reading things of that meeting. And don't you dare buy those airplanes or don't get involved with these people, says Don Gregg, and was pressing me for assurances that I would not buy those airplanes, and going into the corrupt nature of the people in a generic, broad sense behind that operation.

Felix says they're awful, so on and so forth.

Mr. CAROME. You felt uncomfortable being at that meeting, didn't you?

[C/CATF]. One second.

[Witness conferring with counsel.]

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did.

Mr. CAROME. Other than Rodriguez's name, was Clines' name

mentioned at that meeting?

[C/CATF]. I don't recall specifically if Clines' name was mentioned at that meeting, but unsavory characterization in and around the operation was the general impression I had. The people who were there were no good. You don't want to be involved with them. You don't want to be associated with them. It is possible

Clines' name was mentioned, but I must tell you my attention span or focus on that meeting was not very good. I didn't want to be at that meeting, I didn't like where I was. There were things being discussed there I didn't want to be a party to discussing, and I was really kind of PO'd I was there.

Mr. CAROME. Were you afraid you were going to learn something

you didn't want to know?

[C/CATF]. Be put in a situation I didn't want to be put in.

Mr. CAROME. Did you feel this was an inappropriate discussion-altogether?

[C/CATF]. I felt it was an inappropriate discussion for that group

to be having, yes.

Mr. CAROME. Did you feel it was illegal for that group to be

having that discussion?

[C/ČATF]. I don't think I reflected on the law or not. I reflected more on the politics of it and the fact that it was—once again, I was working on actively disengaging, trying to distance myself, and that was drawing me into something and I didn't like being there and I didn't like the ambiance. This is the first time I had met Don Gregg.

Mr. CAROME. Did you learn anything at that meeting you didn't

already know?

[C/CATF]. I think that it clarified in my mind the unsavory—it reenforced in my mind the impressions that I had developed over time of the sort of unsavory nature of things out there, and it began to tie pieces together here and there that maybe I hadn't let my mind tie together.

Mr. Cohen. You aren't suggesting Don Gregg was part of the un-

savorv---

[C/CATF]. No, no, not at all. I'm suggesting people over the horizon that I didn't see, and frankly didn't look for, were unsavory.

Mr. CAROME. Wasn't it part of your job as the Chief of the Central American Task Force to know these things? Why were you

afraid of knowing these things?

[C/CATF]. That's an interesting question. I think people always have a fear of the unknown. I took the decision, and it's probably one of the more controversial decisions that I took, but it's rested on the foundation in my opening statement, I knew where I was and I knew I was caught in this giant nutcracker. And I took the decision as I said to support the administration within the bounds

of legality and to do so to the fullest of my ability.

I think I also said when the law changed in 1986 I let the reins out a bit and was a little bit more forward-leaning. As 1986 turned into the summer of 1986 I developed an increasingly specific or increasingly detailed understanding, as I have testified many times, of what was going on. I didn't like what I saw, I felt uncomfortable where I was and I was trying to disengage. We as an agency, Clair George and I, Clair will follow me, took the decision we were not going to investigate the private benefactors, we were not going to try to recruit them. We saw problems with the Executive order there. We saw it putting us in contact with and next to people and in situations which would bring nothing but grief. Maybe it's six of one, half a dozen of another at this point in time, but we felt it was going to bring grief so we made the decision not to get involved

with it. I felt and I feel now that these were American citizens and if there was a desire to investigate what was going on, it fell to the FBI, not the CIA. I think I testified to that matter in front of the House Intelligence Committee at one point in time in response sometime in 1985, to a question from Congressman Brown, where he probed very deeply on this subject. He said what do you know about the money going to the FDN? And as I recall the conversation, I said I have been able to trace it back to the Cayman Islands and to maybe an offshore bank account, from there I think it comes back to the United States, and if it involves the United States it is a matter for the FBI to investigate, and I recall that conversation.

I tried to look that up and get a transcript of that and I could not, but that's my recollection of that conversation. Maybe Mem-

bers or staff recall that as well.

I would like to see if my recollection is correct there. And we did not investigate it. That was the decision we took. And it was the policy of the U.S. Government, the administration, to not impede the private benefactors. That was the policy that I followed, and that I did not investigate them as part of that policy.

Critical, you can criticize the decision and say I'm wrong, but that's it. There it is on the table like it was.

Mr. CAROME. I don't want to get into Brunei in any full-blown way, but I do want to ask you one or two questions on it. You've testified at length in your depositions on it. But I take it it's correct that in the summer of 1986, Elliott Abrams told you of the possibility of receiving a sum of money from Brunei, [deleted] about getting an account set up in the [deleted] and that took place.

Is that roughly correct?

[C/CATF]. That's roughly correct.

Mr. CAROME. I have just two specific questions on this.

First, did you have any discussions with Mr. Abrams at the time about what will be done to make sure that the Brunei money that was anticipated would only be used for the humanitarian purpose for which it might lawfully be solicited?

[C/CATF]. I absolutely recall this, yes.

Mr. Carome. Had you such discussions with him?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. CAROME. What was the plan to make sure that money would

only be used for humanitarian purposes?

[C/CATF]. I don't think you can call it a plan. I remember two snatches of meetings, a phone call and two meetings in the Situation Room attendant to the legislative process. At that point in time we were right in the process of high political intrigue. As most of you recall, both chambers, both chambers had passed a hundred million dollar legislation, the administration was trying to get it to continue and authorized before the August recess, certain elements of the legislature were trying to block that and to drag it

There was high intrigue. The House was ragingly divided against itself, and we were having a lot of meetings about how to deal with this in mostly legislative meetings. Elliott said I'm going off to Brunei, I have a possibility of soliciting some money. As I recall it, he said how much do we need? I did some rough calculations. At that point in time I knew where the program was. I said \$10 million would bring us both the rest of this fiscal year and would give

us something to work with, a little margin next fiscal year.

And I said, he said how do we handle it? I said the best way to handle it is to go to [deleted] and have him open a bank account because we trust the man and the man will help us account for the money, you can make sure that you will be able to have the same accountability apply to that money, [deleted], and we will be able to work with him so that we can control it and have it spent for the things it should be spent for. We didn't go into-

Mr. CAROME. Who was going to control the money? [C/CATF]. [Deleted] UNO.

Mr. CAROME. Would he be overseen in doing that by the United States?

[C/CATF]. Absolutely. [Deleted] what I was implying in that conversation and Elliott I don't think recalls it, we do the same thing with this money and this would allow the State Department to have control over that money, so it didn't get diverted around and used for other purposes.

Mr. CAROME. Did you specifically have a discussion with Elliott Abrams in which it was decided that this money would be used

only for humanitarian purposes?

[C/CATF]. That was clear. I mean in my mind it was clear.

Mr. CAROME. Did you discuss that with him?

[C/CATF]. I don't—I recall it, Elliott doesn't recall it. I recall something like if you put it in the [deleted] bank account—excuse me, into the bank account [deleted], you will be able to be sure it is used for the proper purpose, intended purpose consistent with what you can do, something like that. Remember, these were snatches of conversation on the margin of a meeting. I remember them pretty clearly. My short-term memory is not too bad. That meeting I recall because we had to press very, very hard to open the bank account.

I would like to add one other thing because this is important to me, it's important to me in my relationship with this committee. I want to go back to a meeting that took place in the spring of 1986. It became very clear to us that the \$27 million of humanitarian money was going to run out before the legislation was ultimately passed. By May I think most of us in the administration that were dealing with this problem were fairly confident the Congress was going to authorize renewed assistance for the Resistance. But NHAO money wasn't going to get us there. We calculated NHAO money, Ambassador Duemling and I ran calculations, would be fully expended sometime by the end of June, legislation may not make it until September and we needed to do something.

That was the subject of an NSPG meeting at the White House, and I think that you have records of that NSPG meeting. On the agenda of that NSPG meeting there were several alternatives discussed. One alternative was coming to the Congress, seeking under the authorities in the Intelligence Authorization Act of 1986, reprogramming of funds to bridge the money. That was the option that I was pushing. I pushed that very hard. I said let's go to the committees, let's go to Congress, let's tell them our problem and let's see if we can't get 2 or 3 million dollars reprogrammed under the Intelligence Authorization Act and bridge ourselves through to this program. I briefed the Director, I argued in the interagency group meeting, got it put on the agenda, and at that meeting one of the cabinet officials that's testified in front of this committee, said that was breathtaking, breathtaking to even think we would consider

And after the meeting the Director turned to me and said I'm not going to break my pick on that one, I'm sorry. Once again I tried to do it a different way, but it wasn't done, and somebody—and I take it, I sort of was a little bit disappointed that the—at the way that played out. Because I wanted to go right back and face the issue heads up and see if we couldn't deal with it but others didn't want to deal with it that way.

Mr. CAROME. During Oliver North's testimony before this committee, he was asked about the degree of knowledge of his full service, covert operation in Nicaragua, and he was asked specifically

about you, and I will read to you what his testimony was.

Mr. Nields asked:

"How about the Chief of the Central American Task Force?"

Mr. North: "Oh, I am sure that he had a detailed grasp of—well, I say a detailed grasp. I am sure he had an adequate sense of what I was doing."

Question: "And what is the basis for that belief?"

Question: "We would be have most in more than the property of the property of

Answer: "We used to have meetings with the Restricted Interagency Group, we used to have secure conference calls and on one occasion I can recall laying out for the group—in fact, I think it was after the hundred million had been voted by both houses, hadn't been sent forward to the President, I can recall a meeting in an office in the Pentagon where I went down item-by-item-by-item the things that I was doing and asked them to, point blank, asked them point blank whether or not I had to continue to do them to keep the Resistance alive because even though the manage had been authorized and hills had been passed we couldn't get it forwarded money had been authorized and bills had been passed, we couldn't get it forwarded to the President.

And I went down item-by-item on my checklist of what I was having directed out each month or each quarter or each week to support the Resistance and I asked them point blank whether this should continue."

He said that at this meeting were you, Mr. Abrams, Mr. Armitage, and perhaps Mr. Michael and General Moellering. He also directed us to an exhibit or an item out of his notebook in which he went through item-by-item these various things that he was doing for the Contras.

And that is exhibit 37 in the book before us. And my question to

you is: Was Oliver North right in his testimony to us?

Did you have that kind of very detailed knowledge of exactly

what he was doing with this full-service, covert operation?

[C/CATF]. Let me, once again, dissect your question into two answers. First off, I think the committee can judge for itself from my answers my level of knowledge on his full service, covert operation. I think I have been forthcoming in telling you what I knew and didn't know, so you be the judge.

Secondly, I recall that meeting. I don't recall it in exactly the same details Oliver North had. I recall it as one of I think a battle royal—is what Secretary Shultz called it, about the tug and pull between the State Department and the Agency and who was going to manage what. The focal point of that meeting was to try to figure out how the administration was going to manage the upcoming program, and the reason it was at the Pentagon was that a

neutral party literally was trying to chair the meeting to come to

some resolution as to how an Executive order should be written, how we were going to work equations, what State's role was going to be, what the interagency group would like to manage this thing, whether there would be an Executive order followed by a NSDD and a whole raft of managerial questions.

At the meeting Oliver North did insert, once again, to the best of my recollection, the issue of the airplanes. He might have gotten into the issue of food money and the Resistance incurring debt, be-

cause we were talking about that.

I have looked at this exhibit and I do not recall him mentioning funding to UNO. It wasn't necessary, we were funding UNO. It wasn't necessary to fund [deleted], we were funding [deleted]. I don't remember him talking about [deleted].

I do remember him talking about the airport. I don't remember him putting a budget on it. So my answer to your question is, I think that the presentation at the meeting that it took place—let

me start over again.

I think the meeting took place, is accurate, that some of the things Oliver North said he mentioned, he mentioned. I think

there was another whole focal point that was not mentioned.

My recollection of that meeting, and I will be honest with you, I have checked with other people to see if their recollection is the same, is he didn't raise his full service, covert action program there in the context that this exhibit would appear that he laid it out. I want to make it pretty clear at that point in time, as the committee can see, there are things on here he was doing I knew about. I don't recall him having raised them there.

Mr. CAROME. These items wouldn't come as a surprise to you? [C/CATF]. One of them would have. Two of them would have.

Let me look at them again.

The subsidy to UNO and UNO U.S. travel. UNO, the subsidy to UNO, would have come as a surprise to me. I didn't know he was subsidizing UNO, [deleted]. I would have argued against it. UNO travel in the United States I didn't know about. [Deleted].

That would have surprised me, and the funding to [deleted]. I did not know that he had—I did not know that he was actually fund-

ing [deleted].

Mr. CAROME. I take it that you learned in early October that the Hasenfus plane had been shot down, is that right?

[*C/CATF*]. Yes.

Mr. CAROME. At that point in time, you didn't have any doubt, did you, that this was one in a series of Southern Front resupply

missions you had been receiving reports on for a long time?

[C/CATF]. The answer was I didn't have any doubt about it, but I turned out to be wrong, it wasn't. It was a supply flight to the FDN, and it was a totally different flight. So the supposition that it had been going to the Southern Front was wrong, it was going to FDN and was not one in the continuum of those flights going into the South and involving [deleted], as best I have been able to piece together.

Mr. CAROME. You didn't have any doubt who it was running that

flight, did you?

[*C/CATF*]. No.

Mr. CAROME. I would like you to turn to exhibit 39. Exhibit 39 is excerpts of testimony which you and others gave to the House Intelligence Committee on October 14, 1986, about a week after the Hasenfus flight went down. I refer you first to page 17, in the excerpts about half way through. At that point, Mr. Clair George has just finished making his opening statement in which he has denied any CIA involvement in the flight. Mr. Abrams has also made a statement and he continues here on page 17, both of them, or Mr. George denies any CIA involvement, and then Mr. Abrams denies any U.S. Government involvement in the flight. Is that a fair summary of what the testimony was from those two gentlemen?

[C/CATF]. I reviewed that testimony and both the text, the transcript and my recollection from that, that would be a fair presenta-

tion of it, yes.

Mr. CAROME. You were sitting there next to Mr. George and Mr.

Abrams, weren't you?

[C/CATF]. Yes. I don't think I was sitting next to Mr. Abrams. I

was sitting next to George on the end, as I recall it.

Mr. CAROME. At the point where Mr. George and Mr. Abrams were making these denials of U.S. knowledge or involvement, you made an affirmative decision at that point to remain silent, didn't you?

[C/CATF]. I think the decision was made before that point.

Mr. CAROME. By you?
[C/CATF]. Yes. Well, let me now make a comment. I said there were three things I deeply regret in this undertaking. One was the involvement of [deleted], which bothers me the most, because it touches the most people and really was traumatic.

Second was the involvement of [Castillo] because it was not part

of the way that it was supposed to be.

Third is this testimony. I am troubled by it then, I am troubled by it now. I am not very happy about it. Probably it was the most difficult decision I have made in my life. I had a lot of facts racing around in my head. The decision that was taken, and I don't think it was taken actively, I don't think it was taken sort of like almost acquiescence, was to answer the questions narrowly defined. I think Elliott Abrams has testified to you a lot on this subject, and you will look at the construction of Clair George's discussions, I talk for the Agency, I cannot talk for the U.S. Government.

Who was behind the flights? I didn't know where the money was coming from. I hadn't tied it altogether in a nice neat package. We took answers that I would best describe to you as cute, not the way I testify to Congress now or before or after. I was troubled by that. I am troubled by it now. There is not a lot I can do about it. You can go over this testimony word by word and beat me about the head and shoulders by it, and I will take it. It was what it is. You

have got the facts. Judge for yourselves.

Mr. CAROME. You were in fact glad at the time that these specific questions weren't being put to you; you were grateful that you

were not being directly asked the questions, is that right?

[C/CATF]. Absolutely. Some of you that know me know I like to talk. I express my opinions. I enjoy testifying in front of Congress. This is one time I think if you look at the transcript, I was uniquely silent. I did what my mama taught me not very well, I spoke when spoken to.

Mr. CAROME. But there came a time when you were asked some

questions and did give some answers, didn't you?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. CAROME. I refer to page 20, of this testimony. The chairman

asks, "Do you know who that group was or is?"

Mr. George answered—This is who the private benefactor group is—Mr. George answers: "I do not. I told you, Mr. Chairman, and I know this may cause some serious questioning, but we told our people to stay away from them."

Then the chairman says, "You don't know whose airplane that

was?"

And Mr. George answers: "I have no idea—I read—except what I read in the paper."

Then the chairman asks: "I understand, but you don't know?"

And then you answer: "No, we do not know."

Was that an honest answer you gave?

[C/CATF]. That was an honest answer. It was not a complete answer. I didn't know that Fred Dutton was running those flights. I didn't know Bill Cooper was on those flights. I didn't know how buzz Sawyer was on those flights. I didn't know how they were arranged. I did not know what happened after Gadd had quit. I did not know how the funding worked. I did not know where the money came from. There were a lot of details I didn't have. That was an honest answer, not a complete answer.

Mr. CAROME. I would like to go to page 21 where you say, at the bottom of page 20, "We knew in some cases much less frequently that they were flying [deleted] Nicaragua for the purpose of resupply, but as to who was flying the flights and who was behind them,

we do not know."

The chairman asks: "And you still don't?"

And you answer: "No."

Now, that was a false answer, wasn't it? You knew who was

flying those flights?

[C/CATF]. Let's go back again. I want to make one thing very, very clear. I don't lie and I don't provide false answers, and if I'm put in a situation that is untenable, I will find some way to avoid lying. Lying in my business is a kiss of death, a Judas kiss. I didn't know who was flying those flights.

Mr. CAROME. Or who was behind them, is what you said?

[C/CATF]. You could have put me on a rack and I couldn't have told you who the pilots were, who was managing them. I at that time suspected, but didn't know that General Secord was involved with them. I had no idea where the money was coming from. Had you made me guess, I would have said it was coming from some of the gentlemen that you had in front of this committee, the donors, some of the people—I would not have known that the money was being obtained in the manner that it was obtained. The pieces weren't together. It is not a lie. I could have been more forthcoming to the committee, but I frankly was not going to be the first person to step up and do that. You may call that a cowardly decision, some may call it a brave decision, it is a controversial decision, but so long as others who knew the details, as much as I, who

knew more than I, were keeping their silence on this, I was going to keep my silence. That may be false loyalty, it may be folly, but I said before that I worked for the administration, and I was to support the administration, and to stay within the bounds of the law. That answer was an attempt to do that and you can criticize me for it. I have no excuse for the answer, and I have to stand by whatever accrues from it.

As I said, we can continue to pick this apart, and I think you will

find the same answer.

Mr. CAROME. I'm going to move on to another subject. When did you first learn of the fact that funds had been diverted from the arms sales in Iran to the Contras?

[C/CATF]. The morning of bombshell Tuesday, I think it was the 25th of November, the morning that the Attorney General announced the—made his announcements on television at noontime.

Mr. CAROME. I ask you to turn to exhibit 41. This is the last exhibit I will ask you to look at today. This is excerpts from your tes-

timony before the Tower Board.

Here you tell the Tower Board that you had been on a trip in Central America with Director Casey in the middle of November. I'm looking at the middle of page 40. And that while you were on that trip, a courier came down who was coming down to meet him with his briefs and such so he could do his work on the airplane, and get ready for his testimony. And the courier said to him, you know, there may be a problem on diversion and that was 8 or 10 days before it broke in the newspape

[C/CATF]. He said there may be a problem. I didn't consider it definitive and I recall that—frankly, I didn't recall that either in my deposition but he did make that point and I think he referred to some [deleted]. I have subsequently asked him, was it the smoking-gun memo or [deleted] that Ollie has referred to here. I suppose you could say that is a glimpse of foreknowledge, I don't deny that,

and I forgot that.

The first time I knew it in spades was when I was told by Clair George on the 25th that Meese was going to make his announcements.

Mr. CAROME. This would have been the Wednesday before the Director testified, is that right, around November 19th?

[C/CATF]. It was a Thursday. No, it was a Wednesday.

Mr. CAROME. That would have been November 19th, some 6 days before the public announcement. Who was the courier?

[C/CATF]. [Deleted].

Mr. CAROME. Do you recall whether he specifically used the word "diversion"?

[C/CATF]. No, I don't recall the conversation. It was something like there may be a problem with the money; [deleted] more money than we got, something like that.

Mr. CAROME. I have no further questions, Mr. Chairman.

[C/CATF]. Mr. Chairman, there is one exhibit, thanks to the kindness of the counsel, I got to look at the exhibits—one exhibit I would like to talk to because it bothers me. It is May 2——

Mr. CAROME. Could you give us the number of the exhibit? There

is a tab there just so we can refer to it.

[C/CATF]. This will relate back to some of the questions you have asked me. I want to put this on the board up front right now.

Mr. Caroms. What exhibit number?
Ms. McGinn. Forty-three-twenty-six.
[C/CATF]. It is a phone call. It says, "call from [C/CATF]," and it lays out there something about Clines, [deleted] and so on and so forth.

And I have reflected back on this and in all probability this is a phone call I made to Ollie North when I saw a cable coming out of Europe that talked about Tom Clines buying arms from [deleted], et cetera, and the conversation went something like, "Ollie, are any of your people dealing with Tom Clines? If so, he's bad news, stay away from him." That is really probably the watershed when I really started to get and see, because I know [deleted] about Tom Clines, Wilson, and Terpil, and I knew it was big-time bad and I told Ollie that and tried to give him a waveoff. I wanted to put that on the record now rather than just let that one seep out.

Mr. CAROME. Did you notify your superiors of that?

[C/CATF]. I don't recall. I don't think so.

Mr. CAROME. I have nothing further, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. The committee will take a 10-minute recess and when we return, we will begin with Mr. Leon for questions.

[Recess.]

Chairman Hamilton. The Select Committees will resume sitting and the chair recognizes Mr. Leon.

Mr. Leon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning, [C/CATF].

Let me start off by going back to a point that I believe you have made and look at that a little more closely, and it is a point that I think was made in your deposition as well and is perhaps reflected in some of the documents that have been looked at and that are floating around here. And that is with respect to your reaction and

handling of a couple of incidents during 1986.

The first one that I wanted to focus you on was your learning about [Castillo's] involvement with the private benefactors from the point of view of relaying information, communicating with them, and I believe it was your testimony in your deposition and I think as well today that when you learned about it, you were surprised, concerned, and you were concerned not so much from a legal standpoint, but from a policy standpoint because of the political ramifications potentially to this kind of conduct. Is that a fair assessment?

[C/CATF]. That is exactly right, yes.

Mr. LEON. I believe you were conscious of it, thinking ahead down the road to the funding issue and how the House and the Senate were going to handle that, and of course, that was in May of 1986, and June was the big vote, June 25th, isn't that right?

[C/CATF]. Yes, there is also one other thing that I was concerned

about.

Mr. Leon. What was that?

[C/CATF]. I told you in my testimony that in November or thereabouts or very early on in 1984, when I took this job, I felt that—I think the exact words I used were, the odds of me getting through

this thing unscathed are minimal, and I want to structure it so that the responsibility for what happened comes on me and I didn't want it to proliferate down to people below me, and this did that and it called a lot of things into question that I didn't want called into question, so it concerned me politically and managerially.

Mr. Leon. Following close on the heels of that revelation in May. and your concern that flowed from it, was the July 12th cable that has been referred to in a number of ways, but I'll just refer to it as

exhibit 33.

In that cable there is a sentence, if you have it before you; it is the second sentence of exhibit 33. "With the House passage of the proposed program of assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance, we have taken a second look at the commo link"—that is communications, isn't it?

[C/CATF]. Yes, it is.

Mr. LEON. You get down later in the same paragraph, paragraph one, and it reads, about the fourth line from the bottom of paragraph one: "Consequently, we do not wish to have"—what is that, [deleted]?

[C/CATF]. It is a crypt for CIA.

Mr. LEON. "We do not wish to have CIA-provided assistance tied into an entity that may or may not be bad. We have come too far at this time to let the solid operations that [deleted] has built be jeopardized by elements which we were unable to control."

This again is another reference to the Agency's concern about

the political ramifications of its agents and its staff, is it not?

[C/CATF]. It is, and I would reflect back to the closing comment I made about the 2 May notes from Ollie's notebook. That is the concern that we were developing. We didn't know what we were dealing with. It was an unknown and I didn't like it, and was trying to disengage and get ourselves back from it further than we were.

Mr. Leon. Was there an assessment by the Agency with respect to the entity which you referred to, which I assume to mean the private resupply effort, as to whether or not it was good or bad from a legal standpoint? Had there been any assessments at that point?

[C/CATF]. No, there had not been. We had looked at our actions and determined—and were constantly determining whether or not they were legal. We did not look at the actions of others to deter-

mine whether or not they may or may not have been legal.

Mr. Leon. Now, Assistant Secretary Abrams testified that some 3 weeks after the Hasenfus shootdown, he was informed by [C/LA] that there may be a problem, impliedly a legal problem vis-a-vis Boland in Central America with regard to [Castillo's] involvement with the private benefactors through the KL-43 equipment. Following on the heels of that being brought to the Secretary's attention, I believe his testimony was that there was going to be an investigation of some sort by the Agency into that, and I noted in exhibit 32, which you may have in front of you, that there is a memorandum on November 25th which was, I believe you referred to it as bombblast Tuesday or something like that.

[C/CATF]. Bombshell Tuesday.

Mr. Leon. Bombblast, bombshell Tuesday, whatever, with regard to possible improprieties by [Castillo], isn't that right? Are you familiar with that memorandum?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I am. I read it at the time, and I've read it subse-

quently.

Mr. Leon. Was the writing of that memorandum on that date in any way influenced by the fact of the bombshell that fell on that day?

[C/CATF]. I can't say for certain. I don't recall, but one would have to draw that conclusion. But the discussions of the impropri-

ety predate that considerably.

Mr. Leon. The concerns certainly? [C/CATF]. No, more than the concerns. After the passage of after the final passage of the law or in the final days in October. I don't remember the exact dates in October, we made one of our periodic interagency group trips to Central America and one of the stops of course was [deleted], and in [deleted] we had a very quick sort of a meeting and at the end—[deleted]—at the end of the meeting [Castillo] pulled me aside and said, "I've got a problem." And then he laid out the fact that there had been phone calls to a safehouse in or to a house in [deleted] and phone numbers had been uncovered by a journalist about to go public.

Mr. Leon. But it was a problem that was newspaper-generated? [C/CATF]. Newspaper-generated, right.

Mr. LEON. I should say the uncovering of the problem was a

newspaper-generated concern?
[C/CATF]. Exactly, and at that point in time, I scraped myself up off the floor, I con't remember my exact words, I'm sure there were a few expletives, and then we—I said, "Well [Castillo]," I think, I said, "What can we do about it?" a natural reaction, and we determined that there wasn't. I then came back—I talked briefly about it to Ambassador [deleted] and [deleted] said, very forcefully, "Well, anything that anybody did at this mission, they did it at my directions; [Castillo] is not in trouble, I take the difficulty or whatever for it." I said, "OK," and went back and reported that to [C.LA]and [C/LA] subsequently reported it to George, and there was a discussion what to do about it and it was put in writing on the 25th of November.

Mr. LEON. Now, here we have a series of incidences we have just gone through briefly stemming from May through this November memorandum. And I would like to culminate this little sequence with the final memorandum which I don't believe is in the exhibit

book, but I would like to hand it to you to have it looked at.

If someone could show it to you. This is a memorandum that was an exhibit when [Castillo] appeared before this committee, [Castillo], exhibit 13 at that time, and it was referred to in his testimony. It is a March 2 memorandum for the general counsel of the Agency from George Jameson, one of his associate general counsel, looking at and analyzing the assistance to the military supply activities of the Nicaraguan Resistance by [Castillo] and I would like to draw your attention to a couple of passages in it.

First of all, in the summary section on page 2, there is a segment there toward the end that reads half way through the paragraph, "In my opinion, the law provided authority for CIA to provide information involving safe delivery sites, weather conditions, hostile risk assessments and the like to assist the Nicaraguan Resistance in their resupply activities where CIA's role did not amount to participating in the actual delivery of material or in planning, directing, or otherwise coordinating deliveries during the course of or in

the context of specific military engagements."

Then I would direct your attention to the conclusion section. It is a lengthy memo so there is not much sense in going through the whole thing, but going through the conclusion section, about midway through the paragraph on the bottom of page 7, it says, "However, merely passing intelligence on Sandinista's gun or radar placements, weather conditions, flight vectors and other information to assist in the delivery of supplies for general maintenance of the forces in the field would not seem to be prohibited, both because this would not constitute 'participation' and because this would not be 'integral' to a 'paramilitary operation' as contemplated by Congress. To adopt the more restrictive view of HPSCI Chairman Hamilton would require a determination that all advice or information sharing on logistics operations, even general advice unrelated to a specific resupply effort, would be prohibited because that too would be participation, 'integral' to military operations in Nicaragua. Congress in my view did not intend to go so far. Accordingly, the same kind of information sharing which the public benefactors for general resupply logistics activities not 'integral' to specific military or paramilitary operations as they term them was contemplated by the statute also would not be precluded by the law."

Did you happen to see this memorandum in March of 1987?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did.

Mr. Leon. I would ask, Mr. Chairman, this be included as an exhibit for this part of the record as well.

Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. Leon. Wouldn't it have been nice if this memorandum, vindicating legally the conduct of [Castillo] had been available to you and your colleagues before you appeared before that HPSCI meeting in October 1986?

[C/CATF]. It would have been nice to have had that written in

March or February of 1986, as a matter of fact.

[The document appears in Appendix B.]

Mr. Leon. Considering the fact this memorandum didn't get written until March of 1987, did perhaps the Agency let the cart go before the horse? Had there been enough legal analysis and advice early enough in order to guide you with regard to the conduct of [Castillo]?

[C/CATF]. I think I have a—I think Judge Sporkin looked at that, but I would have to refer to my notes to check. Just one second. I think Judge Sporkin may have looked at that. If you will

indulge me-

Mr. Leon. Look at that memorandum.

Here is what I'm getting at. Obviously you have testified you were concerned back in March, excuse me, May, with regard to the conduct of [Castillo] and obviously you were concerned of the political ramifications of it. You have also testified that the law you believe you might have said was changed in late 1985, with regard to

intelligence passage but I think it was clarified as opposed to

change, wouldn't you agree?

[C/CATF]. No, changed. And I could almost, I don't have the laws in front of me, but prior to 19-in December 1985, we had the Boland restriction in the Intelligence Authorization Act and a slight modification in the fiscal year 1986 supplemental which authorized the \$27 million which allowed very narrow intelligence sharing. Then in the Intelligence Authorization Act of 1986 the Boland Amendment as constructed went away. It was replaced with language that I don't recall specifically, but it said something like CIA may participate in activities to support the Democratic Resistance as authorized by Congress to include [deleted], so on and

Anything else must be specifically authorized by Congress.

Now, the key to this was that indirect—direct prohibitions of Boland went away and that unshackled a lot of things politically. [Deleted]. The absolute prohibition of doing anything at all that constituted indirect support to paramilitary activities went away. We could do a lot of things that represented indirect support and did. [Deleted]. There was a fundamental difference in the law from December of 1986. [Deleted].

Mr. Leon. Were you aware, [C/CATF], that prior to that change and that clarification, whichever interpretation might ultimately be had, before it was made more explicit that passage of intelligence and communications support was permissible, that there had been a difference of opinion prior to the fall of 1985 as to whether the Agency was free under the law to do that? Were you aware

there was a difference of opinion on that subject?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I knew there was a difference of opinion. Mr. LEON. The conference report indicated this was an effort to make this implicit the Agency was free to do that. Did you have that understanding?

[C/CATF]. Yes. I'll go back-

Mr. LEON. I don't want you to trace the history, time is limited here.

[C/CATF]. Yes. In general terms. Mr. Leon. Now, with respect to 1986, and the conduct of your group and [Castillo], isn't it fair to say that his conduct vis-a-vis the private donors here, private benefactors, was not violative of law as viewed by the Central Intelligence Agency but violative of policy, a

policy that was more restrictive than the law?

[C/CATF]. I think that's exactly right. We felt that, as I testified, I felt at the time that we wanted to take a slightly more conservative position and keep buffers between us and private benefactors. What [Castillo] did was seen in May, was seen subsequently during those October discussions as a violation of policy, not a violation of law, and a matter that we had to deal with internally to try to rectify it.

He just got out a little in front of himself in doing those things. We did not think, I did not think that [Castillo] was involved in a violation of the law. So that is right. And also you are correct that there was a differentiation of interpretation of what the fiscal year 1986 Intelligence Authorization Act specifically meant with regard

to the logistics support.

As I testified earlier there was a difference of opinion between the House Committee and the Senate Committee and there were exchanges of letters, three to be exact, trying to reconcile that. It never got totally reconciled.

Mr. LEON. Do you feel looking back on it [Castillo's] conduct ralls within the confines of this opinion that I just handed to you, this

March 1987, opinion?

[C/CATF]. Contrary to sort of—I'm not a lawyer, and I don't purport to be one. I am strictly a sort of, I guess it is an avocation I try to follow.

Mr. Leon. It is a blessing sometimes.

[C/CATF]. I try to follow it. I depend upon my attorney in the task force and Mr. Jameson to sort of refine and hone in discussion with other laws to refine my opinion.

Based on those discussions, I don't think that it represents a violation of the law. But that's not anything like a definitive opinion, that's me absorbing information coming to a layman's opinion.

Mr. LEON. So when you made your decision, and I don't want there to be any doubt about this, when you made your decision to be silent in October, when you were in that HPSCI room, you weren't remaining silent because you thought [Castillo] had done anything illegal or anyone in your shop had done anything illegal, did you?

[C/CATF]. No. I felt very comfortable with the statements that were made not only to the HPSCI but also to the Foreign Relations Committee, CIA was not involved in those flights, and that we had

stayed within the bounds of the law.

Once again I knew when you go outside those narrow definitions things were perilous and there were pitfalls out there. To answer your specific question, no, I don't think [Castillo] had broken the law, I don't think [Castillo] with regard to passing, with regard to what I know at this point in time it's still my opinion what [Castillo] did with those flights in passing information doesn't represent a technical violation of the law.

Mr. Leon. All right. Let me move into another area. You were operating in a RIG setting, an interagency group, Restricted Interagency Group setting and you were acting in that capacity with a number of other people, none of whom you had authority over. Is

that a fair statement?

[C/CATF]. That's a fair statement, yes.

Mr. LEON. And there was someone from the State Department, Defense Department as well as CIA. You weren't in a position to order any of them to do anything, were you?

[C/CATF]. No, I was not.

Mr. LEON. With regard to that working arrangement you were operating under, let me highlight a few facts here and ask you to comment on them after I highlight them. You correct me if I'm wrong along the way now, because I'm attempting to summarize some of these facts.

I believe you have testified either in deposition or here or both that in February of 1986, you were concerned about the loading of a flight with lethals that Felix Rodriguez was overseeing, it was a C-130 and you got in touch with Ollie and asked that that be

stopped. Is that correct?

[C/CATF]. Yes. I still don't know if there was lethal material on that flight. I was concerned about the type of aircraft, the flight and so on and so forth within the context of this, the very narrow limitations [deleted] had authorized those flights to take place.

Mr. Leon. In that same month just prior to that or shortly after that, Ollie showed off a number of pictures at a meeting, I think you have testified to this event, and you have testified I think you thought that was dumb and that he shouldn't have done that and you commented to him on that, did you not?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did.

Mr. Leon. And then in April, a little shortly after that, there was another series of activities involving a KL-43 message and I believe you have testified although the KL-43 message indicated you had given approval you hadn't given approval, do you remember that?

[C/CATF]. To the best of my recollection. I have no recollection of having approved that flight. I've testified to that three times now.

Mr. Leon. Then you testified to the May meeting involving the communications that [Castillo] was doing to assist the private benefactors, the concern that arose out of that. And then that was followed by the June events when the House vote was won and July, your stand-down, or however you wish to have it, however it will be characterized, cable. And there were articles at that time about Colonel North, were there not, in the media and a resolution of inquiry was instituted?

[C/CATF]. Yes, there were and even before that.

Mr. Leon. There was a political problem, so to speak, going on at that time.

[C/CATF]. There was one brewing, there were storm clouds on

the horizon, yes, there were.

Mr. Leon. In this very compacted period of time, you had had a number of conversations with Colonel North, some of which indicated your displeasure with things he was doing, yet you couldn't order him what to do. In a RIG setting like that, what is it you are supposed to do? Are you your brother's keeper?

[C/CATF]. I think Elliott Abrams testified to his frustration at the RIG not being able to order things around. I could not be my brother's keeper. As I said yesterday, I did what I could to influence events, to cause things to happen that I thought were appro-

priate.

I did what I could to stop things where I thought they were inappropriate, but the major thing on which I was inflexible was keeping the Agency within the bounds of legality and propriety. That was my task. That is what I tried to do.

Mr. LEON. You told Colonel North you were against the whole

airstrip idea at some point?

[C/CATF]. I told him as time wore on, particularly in the spring of 1986, as clearly we were running towards problems, we were defining our operations thinking about things, we didn't need the airstrip, not to worry about it, not to hassle with it, it was not something that was necessary for us, and I particularly was there in [deleted], I believe it was in May or thereabouts, when [Castillo] went

to a meeting [deleted] and was told officially they could not use the

airstrip.

I was not at the meeting. I was at a meeting with another person. And then came back the next day [deleted] and in a meeting with Ambassador [deleted] and [Castillo] said don't worry about it, forget it, let it go, it is not a big thing. That airstrip was not—is

not integral to the plan we developed in the spring of 1986.

Mr. Leon. Is there any lesson that can be learned, do you think, [C/CATF], from the experience you have been through here in this RIG setting in a situation where you have a political dynamic like you have described and you have various RIG members with varying opinions on how to handle things and differences of opinions on how to protect, particularly, and risks to be taken politically, is there a lesson to be learned either by yourselves or by others in a similar situation in the Agency on how to best handle these for the future?

[C/CATF]. There is a lesson to be learned for us all in that. I think the lesson for me to have learned was to have been a little bit more cautious in the first 2 months of 1986, when I said I let the reins out and then had to pull myself back in—that is my lesson. I have asked myself a hundred times if I could go back and do it over again what would I do differently? And I put that thought out of my mind, because I couldn't, and so there is not a

lot of sense in thinking about it.

But the major lesson, and I wish Chairman Hamilton were here to hear this, comes out of the summer of 1985, in which we had intensive meetings with Chairman Whitten, Chairman Hamilton, and with Chairman Boland and anybody else who would listen and pleaded, pleaded not to write CIA out of managing the \$27 million, not to do it. And then in December, November, again at my urging, Bud McFarlane convened a meeting in the White House. At that meeting was Chairman Hamilton, Vice Chairman of the Intelligence Committee—his name has gone out of my mind—last year from the—Congressman Cheney, Congressman McCurdy and late: Senator Durenberger, and Mr. McFarlane asked, almost pleaded for four things. He said, please in the Intelligence Authorization Act give us intelligence sharing, give us communications equipment, give us logistics, and give us air defense.

We said air defense is negotiable. We probably can get along without it. These are the three things we need for this Resistance

to survive until we resolve the divisions in Congress.

We didn't get that. The lesson to have been learned was not to have vindictive, not to be a house divided against ourselves, not to write our DOD, CIA, two entities in the Government that could have run that program and run it right and force State Department to put the RIG unit together with bubblegum and bailing wire to try to do something they weren't prepared to do, and not to stiff the administration when they pleaded to give them something so they could avoid a problem.

That was an attempt by me to work with Congress. I, in large measure, caused that meeting to happen, and I was the one that said please give us logistics advice, and I think if Chairman Hamilton were here he would remember some of the comments I made at

that meeting describing the problems.

I did it because I knew the nutcracker I was in and I could see

the problem over the horizon and I was trying to solve it.

The lesson is not to be a house divided against yourself. And the lesson for me for 2 months was I should have been a little more cautious, and the lesson for all of us is we are going to have more problems like this if we are divided, if we fight with each other and if we can't find consensus and we ought to learn them because the

future is not bright if we don't.

Mr. Leon. Let me just turn to one last area, [C/CATF], before I finish, and that is with respect to a couple of points you made both in your deposition and I think in your testimony today. You have talked about almost an operational, I believe, I think it would be fair to characterize it as an operational role that you assumed of staying out of harm's way both politically and legally and one of the ways you would do that would be to back away from situations that you felt were uncomfortable, and instances that have come up as examples were: Ollie showing these pictures; Gadd flying into Nicaragua situation; the Donald Gregg meeting you said you felt very uncomfortable about; and I believe that you even went so far, at one point, to describe this as a CIA operational role that is assumed in some instances.

[C/CATF]. Posture was the word.

Mr. Leon. Posture. Perhaps one could conclude from it sometimes in your situation in dealing with politics a little knowledge is a dangerous thing. But would it be safe to say that this modus operandi you were involved in here was a difficult one for you to assume even though nonetheless you decided you had to assume it?

I mean, Woody Hayes didn't teach you to back away from situa-

tions, did he?

[C/CATF]. It is not my proclivity to back away from things. I suppose I have been described as a guy who gets in the middle and takes care of things, but I also——

Mr. LEON. You were the one who wanted to go to Congress, were

you not?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Leon. Who was the Cabinet officer who characterized that as a breathtaking idea?

[C/CATF]. Secretary Shultz.

Mr. LEON. You wanted to go forward?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did.

Mr. Leon. You wanted to proceed ahead on it? And yet there was an instance where you had an opportunity before Congress and you testified, regrettably that you didn't go forward, that you did hold back, so to speak. My question to you today is: Here you have another opportunity before Congress, and are you sitting there prepared to assure this committee that you are not holding back, you are not in a backing-away mode of operation? Are you giving this committee everything?

|C/CATF|. I will let the committee be the judge of that as finally

they must be, but the answer to your question is yes.

Mr. LEON. No further questions.

Chairman Hamilton. The committee will begin questions now by the principal questioners. They each have 20 minutes.

The chair recognizes Senator Rudman.

Mr. RUDMAN. Just for planning purposes, is there any possibility we are going to finish with this witness and go on to our third witness and be done by some time early this evening or does it look like we are going to have to do it again tomorrow?

I am wondering how long the questioning is going to be.

Chairman Hamilton. Both the witness and I hope we will complete his testimony early this afternoon. I do intend to go ahead with Mr. George and get as much of his testimony today as we can. Mr. RUDMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Boren. Since I have to chair another meeting for a brief time at 2:00, Mr. DeWine indicated after Chairman Stokes he will allow me to alternate at that point since I couldn't be back precisely at 2:00.

Chairman Hamilton. We will be glad to recognize Senator Boren

after Congressman Stokes.

Congressman Stokes, you may proceed. Twenty minutes. Mr. Stokes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[C/CATF], I want to start out with a question involving your testimony on October 14, 1986. I don't pose the question in any way to beat up on you. You already have been very forthcoming about your manner of conduct that day before the House committee. But as I recall, you said that you had decided before you got there not to speak up first, that is not to answer fully, and, of course, you told us today you regret that decision, and I certainly respect you for the forthcoming manner in which you testified about it, but I guess what I want to get at is the question of what were the reasons for your decision? I want to try to get at what was going through your mind, and I guess specifically I would ask you to tell us whether you were trying to protect Ollie North, were you trying to protect Contra aid, were you trying to protect Mr. Casey?

Just give us some idea, some semblance of what went into that

decision, if you can.

[C/CATF]. I can try. It is very complicated, and very personal, and I think it was strictly, one, to put it in a broad spectrum, I was a member of the team, I was a member of the administration team, I wasn't going to break ranks with the team. I didn't know it all, I

knew bits and pieces of it.

I think I probably—I knew more certainly than anybody else at the Agency with—I don't know where Director Casey was because I will parenthetically say he never talked to me about these things, I respect him for it. I couldn't comment on Oliver North's testimony relative to Director Casey. I just don't know where he was because he was very good about not drawing me into these things, not forcing me into awkward positions.

My frame of mind was to protect, was to be a member of the team, not to get out ahead, to try to get through this, focus on what I had been focusing on, the new program which was upcoming which I knew would be a management challenge of the first order, and get onto that and try to get through where we were, and

to do it without lying, try to go through as best we could.

I would point out to you, I don't mean this as a cop out, I was not the senior witness at the table. And I was not going to get out ahead of other people who were there, and I played a passive role as best I could.

[Deleted].

Mr. Stokes. Yesterday you testified that Colonel North told you that funding for [deleted] and [deleted] could be continued after the

Congress had cut off appropriated funds; is that correct?

[C/CATF]. I testified to that effect. [Deleted]. Ollie confirmed that to me at a meeting in February or after that and it was confirmed by [deleted] and there was some discussion of that, that, quote, the—whoever they were—the private donors were taking care of [deleted].

Mr. Stokes. On exhibit 9, let me refer you to that for a moment. On the second page there is a notation of a phone call from you

and it says "\$5,000 for [deleted] to pass to [deleted]."

Is this request similar to the one on the first page of this exhibit where you asked Colonel North to provide \$25,000 for [deleted]?

[C/CATF]. As I think I testified yesterday, I don't have a specific recollection of having-asked Colonel North to provide money to [deleted] and I certainly don't have a recollection but I do recall in the—I think this is 1985, is it not—I do recall in the 1985 time-frame, around that time, May, June, discussing [deleted] financial problems and the fact that he needed money, and it is entirely possible that I said he needs \$25,000 or so to Ollie North.

On the second, I just don't know. "5K for [deleted] to pass to [deleted]," I don't know what [deleted] he is talking about and that is not the way I would have characterized something to pass money from [deleted] to [deleted] for something else. If [deleted] needed money, then the money would have been passed directly to [delet-

ed].

I don't recall that and that doesn't sound like me, that is not the

way I do business.

Mr. STOKES. Would it be a fair statement to say that in the case of [deleted] and [deleted] that you handed off funding responsibility to Colonel North?

[C/CATF]. It can be characterized that way or it can be characterized that I told Oliver North the problem and said, look, maybe you can solve it. I can't deal with it. That is the way I looked at it. It is a nuance difference as to whether that is a handoff or what.

Mr. Stokes. [C/CATF], are you aware of a standing request from the House Intelligence Committee for all CIA reporting concerning

the Contras?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Stokes. Are you also aware that the committee regularly examines this material?

[C/CATF]. I am aware that Mr. Giza from the committee does do

that, yes.

Mr. Stokes. Are you also aware that some limited dissemination reports were withheld from the committee and that by coincidence perhaps these reports were the following: reports that identified General Secord buying arms in [deleted] in March 1985, reports that showed the air resupply operations using C-7s and C-123s beginning in November 1985, and reports that show [deleted] arms shipments to the Contras. These reports are limited dissemination, but the committee reviews this kind of reporting. So my question is, why was this material withheld from the committee?

[C/CATF]. I answered that in the deposition, I will give you the same answer again. They asked the question a hundred times, and I have to give the same answer. I didn't know that that happened.

It came to my attention in the 14 September meeting when I think if we go back to the testimony in response to questions I believe by Chairman Brown, I said we have reported on these things, we reported in considerable detail, and I believe Mr. Giza had read the intelligence reports—I can still see Mr. Giza behind your shoulder shaking his head no.

I went back and asked my Chief of Reports, did you show these reports to Mr. Giza, and he said no. I said why not, and he said they are sensitive memo disseminations, and I didn't think that I

should have done that.

I said, I told you to show him all reporting. He said, but I didn't show them to him. I said show them to Mr. Giza, and the answer is a technician, a very good technician, made a technical decision, and that was his decision, and I didn't followup on it, I didn't look at the things that Mr. Giza looked at, and it was no attempt to hide them from anybody.

Believe me, if we were trying to cover those up, those wouldn't have been disseminated to the DDI and the DDI wouldn't have written product on them. The answer is it was a technical slip-up that is regrettable, open to multiple interpretation if one wants to

look at it maliciously, but it wasn't meant to be malicious.

Mr. Stokes. The bottom line is had it not been for this investigation, we would have never seen those documents, isn't that true?

[C/CATF]. That is probably right.

Mr. Stokes. In your May 1 deposition, you indicated that there had been a CIA approach [deleted] in the fall of 1986, after the \$100 million Contra aid program had been enacted. This was apparently developed in conversations-between Director Casey and an individual who had good connections with [deleted]. You were directed to dispatch one of your deputies to meet with the person in New York. Can you tell us why CIA sought to solicit aid for the Contras from a foreign government just after Congress had provided \$100 million for the Contras?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I can. The—when we did our budget for the program and we projected it out, I projected that if we did everything we wanted to get done, we would have probably an \$8- or a \$10-

million-dollar shortfall off the \$100 million.

I think you will reflect back to my conversations in response to counsel Carome's question about the Sultan of Brunei-when I said some \$10 million, I had already done some calculation about money and where we were and said that \$8 million would give us a margin or bridge or we would have liked to have had in the \$100 million program.

There had been ample discussion about solicitation of funds. As you know, it is a practice that we have used to augment other programs. We have briefed the committees on them fully, and it was a-something that Director Casey and I had talked about and had

talked about in interagency group meetings.

We felt it was very important and I think Congressman Hamilton will recall getting the prohibition on solicitation off of us so we could go out and do those things and the Director came up with this opportunity, and I said, "right on, boss, we could maybe get that 5 or 6 million dollars, and that will allow me to buy two or three more airplanes and do some things and it will be a good

thing."

So he did and that was the purpose for it. I might tell you that in managing the program we have not done some things that we would have done had we had that money, but we have cut and scrimped and put things together and done without it because after the Iran-Contra problem broke, I said politically it is just too sensitive to go out both in terms of other government reactions and Congress to solicit, so we haven't done it. But that was the intent and purpose of it.

Mr. STOKES. Would it have been your intention to brief the Intel-

ligence Committees about this if it had gone through?

[C/CATF]. Yes. The Director and I discussed the law and I said that with the new law passed, we can do these things. I vaguely recall that we ran it past some of our lawyers, I think the officer of mine who actually did it, I was on a trip at the time, ran it past a lawyer. We had every intention to have accounted for it within the structure of the program and to report it to Congress, absolutely.

[Counsel conferring with witness.]

[C/CATF]. My attorney from the task force advises me during the negotiations of the administrative annex by which we account to Congress for the \$100 million, which is a unique document, we discussed how we would handle solicited money. He recalls we actually may have even touched on the possibility of [deleted] money. I don't recall that specifically, but I do recall with your financial person who monitors the finance discussing how we would account for solicited money.

So it was our intention to be absolutely forthcoming.

Mr. Stokes. What amount were you asking for, do you recall? [C/CATF]. We didn't have a specific figure in mind. We were just talking. They never got that far. It was exploratory, the intermediary was going to go to [deleted] and hold the discussions, come back and talk to us about it. I did not go to the meetings and the

officer who went to the meeting and who actually conducted it didn't get into details of amounts.

I think you may have his memorandum. If you don't, I do, and he lays out what happened there. He did not actually get around to soliciting money or discussing amounts. He laid out needs and so on.

Mr. Stokes. Moving to another area, you have been Chief of the Central American Task Force since September 1984, is that correct?

[C/CATF]. That is correct.

Mr. STOKES. [Deleted].

[C/CATF]. [Deleted]. As the committee is aware, North was full of bombast. He met with a lot of people and did a lot of things, and I aways wondered how he could do them because he didn't speak to Spanish speakers. Look at the famous call to Arias, I was sure he didn't do that. There were other people that he said that he spoke with from time-to-time and I always wondered how a non-Spanish speaker got through to Spanish-speaking people only. [Deleted].

Mr. Stores. I see the light is on. I have additional questions, but I will defer them until later on.

Chairman Hamilton. I think we will have time to yield to the

gentleman later on.

The chair recognizes Senator Boren for 20 minutes. Mr. Boren. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I want to thank Mr. DeWine for his courtesy in letting me proceed at this time.

[C/CATF], I think you know that I have a very high regard for your professional capabilities and for your service.

C/CATF. Thank you very much. I appreciate that.

Mr. Boren. I know that you will understand that the questions that I ask are asked out of institutional responsibility and a sense of that responsibility and not out of any kind of ill-will towards you personally.

You learned, I gather, of Attorney General Meese's planned noon

press conference at a meeting earlier that day?

[C/CATF]. I wouldn't call it a meeting. I was in the DDO's suite

and it was mentioned to me that it was going to happen.

Mr. Boren. And did you have any discussions with regard to what information you should disclose about this whole matter to persons outside the CIA between that time and the time of your testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee on December 9th?

[*C/CATF*]. No.

Mr. Boren. You did not?

[C/CATF]. I did not, sort of, no, sit down and talk about that.

Mr. Boren. Did anyone come to you-

[C/CATF]. No, I can recall one conversation with Clair George where we talked about—I said sort of, I'm going to have to say I had a pretty good idea of what Ollie was up to, and sort of talked to him in a general context, but no direction or specific detailed discussion of how to—

Mr. Boren. Did Mr. George or anyone else discuss with you what

you should or should not say?

[C/CATF]. No. At that point in time, I think it is fair to say everybody was proceeding very, very cautiously, and being very judicious about their words and knew that questions like that were going to be asked.

Mr. Boren. I understand.

Let me go into the question of your trip to [deleted] in February, 1987. When and how did you learn of the use of the CIA helicopters

in [deleted] to carry Contra arms in early 1986?

[C/CATF]. I want to add a piece of information that is not on the record here anywhere, because I want to be absolutely straight up. When we made that trip, I heard a glimpse of a side conversation with-between the [deleted] and [deleted] and [deleted] said, "Hey, I want to fly some stuff over to the training site," and [deleted] said, "No, you can't do it." That triggered something in my ear but I didn't think there was a problem because the [deleted] shut him down right now.

Then on that trip, prior to that trip, [deleted], one of the private benefactors, saying that our [deleted] had allowed him to get a helicopter flying supplies. And the IG was about to come down there.

We had already sent cables down there; we had already sent cables asking for a comment on that report whenever there were allegations and we got back essentially a negative response.

I pulled [deleted] aside-

Mr. Boren. You had had that background before you went down.

[C/CATF]. Sent the people down and the inquiry came back essentially negative. I had a glimpse at [deleted] at [deleted]. It didn't really signify to me a problem. He said, "Hey, I want to do these things," and I said, "No."

Mr. Boren. That was on the same trip?

[C/CATF]. Yes. On these trips, I don't go show and tell; I sit back and talk to the [deleted] and [deleted] and other things that work.

I heard that conversation and it didn't mean anything to me at the time because [deleted] had given exactly the right answer; he had shut it down. Subsequently, after the investigations came down, I looked at it and said, that was the tip of the iceberg, but it didn't at the time. I pulled the [deleted] aside at [deleted] and said, "[Deleted] did you put somebody on the airplane; did you let these things happen?" His response was, "No, well, gee, someone may have gotten on the airplane, but I don't think they went to Nicaragua, I don't think they flew ammunition down there, no, I don't think so."

I said, "Sit down with [deleted] and get your story straight. When the IG comes, tell it to him like it is, because the worst thing you can do is not get it out up front." And I left.

And Clair George, in his meetings down there, delivered at each one of our stops along the way very strict instructions to tell people to get up front with the IG, tell it like it was, get it out and purge yourself of any concerns that you may have. I heard it in each

place along the way.

So at that point in time, I knew that there was a compliance problem. I didn't think it was a big one. After the IG went down there, I subsequently learned that they had uncovered what looked like to some flights [deleted] based on inventory records they had seen, but they didn't think it was a serious problem. They said there are some things here, we think we can reconcile them, not too bad, it looks pretty good.

Mr. Boren. Let me stop you there. Did Clair George also have discussions with [deleted] or others about this while he was down

[C/CATF]. That is a point of controversy, and I think that Clair's memory and mine are different on this, and I've checked it and my memory, once again, is not 100-percent clear because I haven't talked about it for a while. I think he did. I think he said approximately the same thing to [deleted]. I can visualize it going up to [deleted] from [deleted]. I think our [deleted] recalls the same thing happening, but I'm not 100-percent sure. There is a difference of opinion on memory on that.

Mr. Boren. What did you or Clair tell the IG about this?

[C/CATF]. I told him exactly what I told you. I think Clair has said consistently he doesn't recall that conversation and that isthat is a reasonable thing. He probably doesn't.

Mr. Boren. We can ask him about that when he comes. All right.

When did you realize there was a serious problem with the helicopters?

[*C/CATF*]. April. Mr. Boren. In April?

[C/CATF]. Actually, before April. Actually, there was another cable that came down [deleted] he claimed [deleted] actually flew with him in one of the airplanes and that was something [deleted] hadn't said, and I knew then there was a strong possibility [delet-

edl hadn't come clean.

We sent a cable out shortly thereafter asking, what are the facts of this? We got back a story that was an extension of what we had gotten the first time. I called [deleted] at home and said, "You're not in trouble yet, but you're an inch away from it. Go to the IG and tell all of it now or you will be in trouble." This was in April. He looked at me and said, "All, [C/CATF]?" I said, "All." And I said, "Don't tell me because I'm going to have to testify and I'm going to have to talk to the IG and I'm going to have to go to the grand jury, so I don't want to hear the baggage. You go do it," and my attorney at that point in time, the IG and everybody got into the act, the independent counsel and your committee and it all came falling out.

Mr. Boren. It was sort of unusual; you had [deleted] there and

you had a [deleted].

[C/CATF]. Yes, we did.

Mr. Boren. Why was [deleted] assigned there?

[C/CATF]. Because we were looking for an individual who had political judgment, had been an FI in a foreign intelligence job and knew what intelligence was, but also had solid paramilitary background and was a Spanish speaker. You get to looking for those things, and it narrows down, there aren't many of them around.

[Deleted] was a highly qualified [deleted] officer who had a solid FI background, who had been [deleted] twice and seemed like the ideal choice to go there, so he was drafted out of a fairly senior position in our counterterrorism branch and assigned down there because of the combination of skills and language that he had.

Mr. Boren. Did it create any problems that you had the [deleted] there and you had the [deleted] in the same location in essence?

[C/CATF]. I don't know if you know [deleted]. His longest suit, and it is long, is getting along with people. People love him and he's got a soft touch with management, and there was never any friction there.

Mr. Boren. Turning to a little different situation, you were [deleted] at the time of the initial [deleted] contribution in 1984. Did you know anything about that?

[C/CATF]. I did not. [Deleted].

I had no reason to believe then nor do I have reason to believe now that that was part of the solicitation of money for the Nicaragan program. And never did I have any reason until it actually broke in the press at some time, whenever, in January that it was [deleted] money. I speculated on it, but I didn't know it.

Mr. Boren. What about in your testimony on December 9th, it has been touched on by Chairman Stokes, you testifed on December 9th, before the Senate Intelligence Committee. You mentioned the

Brunei contribution. You didn't mention Director Casey's solicitation of the [deleted] contribution in October-November of 1986.

[*C/CATF*]. No.

Mr. Boren. Why not? [C/CATF]. It either didn't come to my mind or because it wasn't-it took place after the new program, after the new program, and it clicked off in my mind and I didn't bring it up—one of those two reasons. I don't recall the specific reason.

I might say, in that testimony, that I was trying to paint the broad strokes of what I understood and what happened, and I just didn't get into that. It didn't come to my mind. I don't think I was

asked, either.

Mr. Boren. I think that it is a fair statement to say that the way the question was asked certainly could be interpreted in a way that

it would not have jogged your thought about that matter.

You told the Senate Intelligence Committee on December 9th, that you didn't know where UNO was getting funds after the Boland Amendment cut off CIA funding, but later in your depositions you have indicated your knowledge that Colonel North was arranging funding for [deleted] and [deleted].

Why didn't you tell the committee that on December 9?

[C/CATF]. As I recall the testimony, what I said was I didn't know where the funds were coming from. That was a correct answer. I didn't know until this investigation began where the funds were coming from. I knew, and I think I said in that testimony that Colonel North was involved in influencing the events around those funds. If I didn't, I should have.

I haven't reread that testimony in preparation for this testimony. What I wanted to say was, I didn't know where the funds were coming from, because I didn't know who was the donor and at that point in time, December 9, I still thought that Ollie was causing

things to happen, not doing things.

Mr. Boren. You didn't ever really tell us, however, that you knew he was in the business of getting money to keep these people in operation?

[C/CATF]. I would have to reread the testimony. It's here, I will have to look at it. I haven't read it, but I will accept your charac-

terization of it.

Mr. Boren. At the hearing you were asked if you knew of any U.S. person who had assisted the Contras outside of the legally authorized program, and you did not disclose your knowledge of the role of Mr. Rodriguez or of Richard Gadd, which is clear from later testimony you knew about Rodriguez and Mr. Gadd-

[C/CATF]. I can't figure why.

Ms. McGinn. Could you refer us to the page of that transcript please?

Mr. Boren. Yes. It's page 29.

"The question: Despite the instruction to inquire as to the source of private funding, are you aware of any individual U.S. person, government or private, who is providing assistance to the Con-

"Answer: I assume by that you mean providing assistance outside the framework of existing law?"

"Question: That is correct.

"No, with the one exception that is currently being reviewed right now in the Agency. That would have been the [Castillo] matter."

And then in your depositions, you indicated that you had talked to Rodriguez about [deleted], that you attended a meeting in Don Gregg's office when you discussed CIA's negative attitude toward Rodriguez, that you had a confrontation with Rodriguez and also that you had other discussions later about Gadd's operations. So when you were asked about private persons, you didn't mention Rodriguez or Gadd?

[C/CATF]. I can't figure out why I wouldn't have mentioned Rodriguez. It was no secret what Rodriguez was doing. We talked about Rodriguez in questions and answers before the Senate Foreign Relations and House Intelligence Committee. I don't know

why I didn't mention Rodriguez at that time.

As for Gadd, it either didn't come to my mind or I didn't think it was outside the framework of existing law. That may be why I asked for clarification of that question. I am going to be very, very up-front with you, at that point in time I was walking on egg shells. I was walking a line once again as a member of a team, the story, it was a very tense sort of moment in time. I was one of the first ones off the block, I was exposed, I was nervous, and I was not going to perjure myself. I was going to paint the broad strokes, and I was carrying forward still in the same frame of mind that I laid out beforehand.

I would answer the questions, I would not perjure myself and give you the broad outlines that I could fill in with the extent of

my knowledge later as necessary.

Mr. Boren. Well, also at that hearing you were asked whether Lt. Col. North had a role in making the arrangements for humanitarian air delivery operations that also carried lethal supplies. We got into later discussion of the 10-percent rule and so on, you said no.

[C/CATF]. He didn't know that. That was done—that was all done by Ambassador Duemling. North, and technically speaking, North didn't have a role in doing that.

Mr. Boren. Didn't North arrange for Mr. Gadd to be involved in

those deliveries?

[C/CATF]. North lobbied for Mr. Gadd. North, I would say, influenced the decision of Mr. Gadd. But the final decision was made by Ambassador Duemling, so once again, technically he didn't have a role in the management for that. The technical decisions and final decisions were made by somebody else. He was a member of the RIG and a member of influencing it, but I was giving a very technical answer.

What was in my mind at that point in time, that was NHAO and

the State Department that did that.

Mr. Boren. I believe Duemling complained to you in March of 1986, however, that Gadd's flights were shipping some lethal aid, and you asked Duemling to use Gadd for just two more flights, and that would be enough.

[C/CATF]. I can recall a whole series of conversations about Duemling and Gadd and those problems and so on and so forth. First off, there were discussions with the committees about wheth-

er or not the NHAO flights—let's be very specific, we are talking about flights from [deleted] to [deleted] in these discussions, and I was not at the discussions, but there were early discussions in August about what was and wasn't permissible on the NHAO legislation. I was there.

There were later discussions which Ambassador Duemling and Jim Michaels had with the House Intelligence Committee about what and what was not authorized. Somewhere out of those there came an understanding that portion loads, or the infamous 10-percent rule, could be laid out. And so it was known and understood and discussed in some detail at these various RIG meetings that a small remainder on those flights, up to 10-percent arbitrarily in some cases, came in there, people could carry lethal material. That was very controversial.

I think, Chairman Hamilton, they ultimately came back to the Intelligence Committees, discussed it again, and you advised him it wouldn't be very smart to do that. Elliott Abrams then stopped it. It went away, and we were sort of a party, the Agency, and our

overseers were a party to make sure that went away.

As to two more flights, Gadd had told me and had told [deleted] he had laid out a lot of money to open up the [deleted] operation, so on and so forth, was out of pocket and didn't have money. What I told Ambassador Duemling, in two more flights he would be able to recoup his loss, why don't you go two more flights and get rid of the guy? I think it was an attempt to be charitable to allow the guy a chance to make the money that he told us he had laid out. He was maybe obviously blowing smoke up my ear, but that is what he said and that's why I said that to Duemling.

Mr. Boren. Let me ask you to turn to page 33 of your testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee. I will conclude, Mr.

Chairman, very quickly. I have two questions on this matter.

You were asked specifically about activities by Colonel North to support the Contras, and you said yesterday when North bragged at the RIG meeting about, in January of 1986, about his activities with the [deleted] airstrip, that that was a neon light about North's role. So that made an impression on you.

Yet when you were before the committee, you were asked, would you agree or disagree with the statement it was common knowledge in the Agency, those associated with him, Colonel North was involved in finding ways to provide appropriate assistance? You, in

essence, said it was pretty widely understood.

"Question: Can you provide for the committee any specifics about

Colonel North's activities, can you be more specific?"

There was a hesitation. Are you aware—you said, well—"Question: Are you aware of any activities by Colonel North specifically directed to raising funds for the Contras or arranging for provisions of supplies to the Contras?"

"No, not of any specific direction or any specific activities that

he undertook."

And yet clearly you knew about the airstrip, you had discussed it at the RIG. You said that is a neon light that went on about the scope of his activities, and yet you didn't share that with the committee at that time.

[C/CATF]. I think that my answer there is I will go back to my initial statement to the 14 October testimony which was also cutting some very tight corners, they asked me if I was aware of specific activities that he was involved in, and my answer obviously turned around the word "involved." I know that he knew about them, I knew he was quarterbacking them, and what I was saying there was I did not know the depth of his involvement and if he was specifically funding them.

I was being frankly technically correct, specifically evasive.

Mr. Boren. Technically correct, but specifically evasive.

[C/CATF]. That is my answer.

Mr. Boren. So you understand, in reflecting upon this, it had the effect of not steering the committee in the right direction, that it did not give a complete and accurate impression to the committee?

[C/CATF]. It did not give a complete and accurate answer. It was not as fulsome as it should have been. It was specifically an effort on my part to answer the question technically right, not perjure myself and not move outside the team work.

Mr. Boren. How much did you tell Clair George about such things as North bragging at the RIG meeting, these kinds of things about North's activities and your suspicions about North's activities?

[C/CATF]. I don't know I told him specifics. I kept him briefed on the broad strokes of the private benefactors and what were happening and that Ollie was in and around causing these things to go down.

Mr. Boren. Do you know if you ever told him about Ollie's involvement, what Ollie had said about his involvement in the airstrip?

 $[\bar{C}/CATF]$. I don't think I did. I may have mentioned the airstrip to him, I just don't recall whether I mentioned it to him or not.

Mr. Boren. Let me say one thing, in conclusion. You were saying to Chairman Stokes, as he asked you, I think, a very interesting and probing question about what was going through your mind as you were preparing your testimony and as you were dodging, as you say, being specifically evasive, as you put it, to the House Committee and obviously——

[C/CATF]. The House Committee was different. I was in a less

vulnerable position, I was passive.

Mr. Boren. Before the Senate Committee, you were called upon specifically about this inquiry under oath, and you were evading. And you indicated you felt you were part of the team and a part of the administration. I think one of the things that has disturbed us all in these hearings is we have sat here, and we have thought aren't we all part of the same, don't we all work for the same people, don't we all work for the same cause broadly, and when you think of the role of the committees, I see the role of our committee as not only in a positive sense an opportunity for consultation, of being a sounding board, to talk confidentially about things being thought about or undertaken so we get the benefit of how will Congress react, if all Members of Congress knew about this, how would they feel about it, we can steer away from shoals and mistakes, but also as a protection for the Agency.

This Agency is here to serve the entire government, not just any one particular administration. We have heard a lot of discussions about the dangers of cooking intelligence to provide the administration with the ammunition to support—any administration, Democratic or Republican. The job of the Agency should be to provide objective intelligence to the decisionmakers, it shouldn't be to buttress decisions made by any administration of either party and it has here something of an independent objective role. Its objectiv-

ity must be protected. The Agency can be abused by administrations and be put in uncomfortable positions no administration should ask this Agency to do, and frankly it concerns me that you wouldn't regard us on the oversight committees as part of the team, not only as part of the team of serving the public, but also as having some interest in preserving and in protecting the Agency. In other words, if there had been total candor with our committees, people in the Agency that might have been pushed into gray areas, where they were caused concern themselves, how do I react to this request, should I do it? I hate to be in this situation, I hate to turn these people down. If there was a knowledge the oversight committees would have notice of these kinds of activities, I think very often they could serve as a buffer and protector to the independence and integrity of the Agency and professionals like yourselves in the Agency from being put into untenable positions.

I wonder if upon reflecting upon all this experience, as you look back, and no one here would say they have not made mistakes themselves, we can all learn from this. As we look ahead, have we learned anything about that, and have we learned anything about the value, the integrity of the whole process if the Agency did not view itself as not just part of the administration team, but part of a broader team, which also includes oversight committees in this op-

eration?

[C/CATF]. The answer to your question is the current Nicaraguan program. There is not a thing that happens there we don't talk to the committees about, a major thing. The bi-weekly meetings that we have, the staff briefs that we have I think show complete team work on our part, and I think that it's a classic example of the way things can be done. I think that it's been tremendously constructive. Some of the comments that have come out of there

have significantly improved the operation.

And I think it is absolutely the case, and I think your comments are the underlying theme I tried to get across in my opening comments that I have tried to weave throughout my testimony, and I would hope, as I said before, that there is never a civil servant, never a career CIA officer, who find himself in the position I found myself in 9 December 1986. It was horrid. You can't begin to imagine sort of how I felt going into that, coming out of that, and throughout all that period. I want to point out, since we are having a fairly soul searching conversation here, there are two areas in this that I am bitter about, two points of bitterness: One was with the Congress for putting me here, and——

Mr. Boren. Well---

[C/CATF]. Please let me finish. And, two, because, as I pointed out, I tried, I tried in the summer of 1985, with the humanitarian

assistance, I tried with the Intelligence Authorization Act to get from out under the bite. I tried as hard as any mid-level CIA officer could. There is no CIA officer at my level in history that has been as active with Congress. It wasn't because I am egocentric, it is not that I love to go out there and be in the limelight. It is because I wanted to get the hell out of the bind I was in. I wanted to get this thing fixed. I wanted to do what I thought was right in

Central America, and I made a major effort at it.

The other area—and I couldn't do it, and I was slapped, and I harbor some anger about it. I don't mean that to be a pejorative comment. The other area is with the administration for hanging us out. They should have stood up in November and laid it out. I knew it in November. I knew it in December. I think that those of you who know me know when I have a problem I can't deal with, I will get it out and try to get ahead of it. The only way you can deal

with a problem is get up front and cauterize it.

It didn't happen. Why it didn't happen, I don't know. I wasn't there, I couldn't influence it.

Mr. Boren. And that put you in the position in your December 9

testimony---

[C/CATF]. It put me in a more untenable position December 9 and that has continued until this committee started its work. I thought I was just in a terribly untenable position. I put myself there by dint of the fact I said I'll take all the responsibility on me, I'll shield other people. In my meetings with the task force I have been able to say don't worry guys, you are not in trouble, you are OK. None of this is going to touch you, you keep on executing, you do your work. And I said I'm OK, too.

I thought I was, I still think I am, but I was in a hell of a bind. I

hope no one is in the position I am in again.

Mr. Boren. I appreciate the candor with which you have spoken. We can certainly understand the frustration and agony you have been through in this situation and let me say, I hear what you said and not in an unsympathetic way in many means. I have sympathy for the situation in which you found yourself. As I've already indicated, I have a lot of respect for you. From this let me—and I don't want to take any more time but let me say: Do you think now-one of the things I think we can be in the intelligence committees is, and what we would like to be, if you have any thoughts on how this can be done more effectively. Mid-level professional persons like you should not have been put in the position in which you found yourself and there should be some way in which the very existence of the oversight committees, if we can—and we are working hard to build this relationship of trust. We are well on the way as you have indicated in your testimony. You have very sensitive things to share with both committees; they have not leaked, there has been a great confidence kept. You mentioned one this morning. There are a lot of others we needn't broadcast further by talking about them.

[C/CATF]. Absolutely.

Mr. Boren. Can we also, is there a way to be even more effective in this oversight process in terms of the fact that we exist and the fact there has to be a responsibility to report to us and particularly if this relationship of trust exists for the committees themselves to, in essence, be protectors of professionals in the Agency so that they will not be put in positions which they themselves either feel are compromising their own professional integrity or on the borderline

of doing so.

[C/CATF]. I think it is certainly—there has to be a way. I don't know what that way is. There has to be a way for the oversight committees to play that kind of a function, for the oversight committees to be a part of the process and for Congress to be a part of the process, and yet not get into, and get the administration to execute its constitutional prerogatives and rights. I think that if anything grows out of these Iran-Contra hearings it should be that.

Mr. Boren. If you had said I'm sorry to people—I'm sorry but I have to tell this to the oversight committee, wouldn't that have

been the brakes on them telling you to go ahead and do it?

[C/CATF]. It would have put the brakes on it, and it is something that I could have done I suppose. I could have said, I want to make it very clear no one forced me to do what I did, no one said [C/CATF], do this or [C/CATF], do that, not Director Casey, not Clair George, not John McMahon, they all had confidence in me that I could navigate through these troubled waters and come out the other side unscathed.

I gave it one hell of a time. It is up to you gentlemen to decide whether I did that or not. Let me just take a minute. As you know, I received a \$20,000 bonus for my performance in 1986. I was considered the meritorious officer of the DEO. It has been in the newspapers in kind of a pejorative sense. That was not done by the Director as a bribe. I was selected by the committee of the peers and seniors I think in recognition of doing what was a very difficult job. For 3 months I didn't cash that check, I kept it in my drawer. Because I said I've got to wait until I get through this process to see if I really did it or not. Finally I did, some others persevered and said, that's dumb, don't do that, you're losing a lot of interest and a lot of other things. I really believe that.

If I got through the process, made the right decisions—now clearly I didn't make them all, I don't think in my position there were any real 100-percent right decisions. They were decisions that limited damage, they were decisions that kept me serving the administration as much as I could and staying within the technical bounds

of the law.

As I said, I let myself get out a little bit further ahead than I should have in February, in January and February. I pulled myself back. I found myself in one hell of a position indeed. And really it continued almost until today.

Chairman Hamilton. The chair will state that we will conclude after Senator Cohen's 20 minutes. Senator Cohen is recognized.

Mr. Cohen. Could I inquire whether the chairman will extend the same 20-minute 40-minute timeframe?

Mr. Boren. No.

Chairman Hamilton. The chair was not aware anyone had recognized that. Senator Cohen is recognized for a flexible 20 minutes.

Mr. Cohen. I'll try to conclude within the time alloted.

I think all of us recognize the kind of service that you have given to the Agency in the fact you received this award and were held in high regards by your peers. I'm not so concerned about your activities with the task force as I am about your performance before the committees themselves. That's where I would like to focus and fol-

lowup on the line Senator Boren just finished with.

I am familiar with and rather fond of a novel in which a fictional character leaves the Capitol after testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee and says there are two rules he has dealing with Congress. The first rule is if you don't ask the right question, you don't get the right answer. The second rule is if you ask the right question you get half the right answer. And it seems to me we have been witnessing that in this particular affair, even outrunning Fixx in this case. I recall seeing a few weeks ago a replay of an old movie, the "Absence of Malice," maybe the only memorable line in the movie, the actor says it's accurate, meaning the story, but it is not the truth. I keep coming back to the testimony you and others have given, it may be technically accurate but it was not the truth, and I believe that half a truth is also half a lie as far as I'm concerned. When you tell only part of the truth in order to conceal the other part you are in fact engaging in a misleading of the people you are talking to. I was, I must tell you, rather disturbed to hear some of your testimony this morning and you indicated you're part of the A Team and you're, you are one of the ones who is highly regarded by the administration, by the Agency, by us. You are part of the A Team as such. But it was disturbing to hear you say that you weren't going to be the first one to step up and break through that sort of invisible bond that we used to have, I think Arthur Liman is old enough to recall this—in the medical malpractice cases they used to call it the conspiracy of silence. That seems to me what took place here.

It was a conspiracy of silence, of CIA witnesses who came before the committees and each had this silent vow not to be the first one to step forward. I just want to say you do work for the Agency, you do outstanding work for the Agency, but you also work for the U.S. Government, the entire government. When you are called to testify I think your obligation runs to something broader and higher than just the Agency. It runs to the entire government. That's personal

view on my part.

Now, on tab 9 in your book, to give you an example. I'm not going to spend a good deal of time, but I wanted to make it for the record clear what I'm talking about so that others who come before the committee don't repeat this sort of testimony. Tab 9, you were asked, Elliott Abrams rather was asked, can anyone assure us that the U.S. Government was not involved? Elliott Abrams said, no. I'm sorry, it's tab 39. Your tab 39. Elliott Abrams said no, and you remained silent. I think you indicated today that you were grateful that you had not been asked. And the question I have is, and you also said today you were not the senior witness at the table. Who

was the senior witness at the table?
[C/CATF]. I would say, I would have to refer to the protocol range but I would say Clair George was in overall range the senior

man, Elliott Abrams next and me next.

Mr. Cohen. Was the implication they had as much knowledge as you had and therefore since they didn't step forward you didn't feel that you should be the first to step forward, being the junior member of that team?

[C/CATF]. No. I don't know what Elliott did or did not know and I'm not going to speculate on that. He has testified in front of the

committee and it is for him and for you to judge.

Mr. Cohen. See the problem I have is that you have indicated that you were not going to be the first to step forward. Elliott Abrams said he didn't know. Clair George said he didn't know, and that leaves you.

[C/CATF]. I understand what you are saying. Let me finish the

question—let me finish the answer.

Clair had the broad strokes, he knew that Ollie had been around and was involved, he didn't know as much detail of the involvement as I did. That's why he structured his answer like he did. Frankly when that was said, my mind was racing, I was figuring how is Elliott getting from A to B. And he must have it worked out in his own mind so that that statement is technically correct or is correct. And I sat and was silent. I walked out of that—there is no excuse for it.

Mr. Cohen. No, but the implication was you weren't going to be the one to break the silence since you were the junior member and according to the testimony we have received, you were the only one of the three that had the information that would have contradicted what Elliott Abrams was saying, so we are left with not just the

three of you all walking lockstep.

[C/CATF]. I see. I understand where you are going.

Mr. Cohen. That's where we are left. [C/CATF]. You are putting me in the position of saying you were the one with the-

Mr. Cohen. The knowledge?

[C/CATF]. I had the most detailed knowledge.

Mr. Cohen. And they had the—they were the ones with the seniority.

[C/CATF]. And whether or not—I don't know what Elliott

Abrams knew, I really don't want to comment on that.

Mr. Cohen. All right. Let me go on to another issue then because I think that you were asked on another situation, I think it was page—page 54 of the transcript of our hearings, said, "To your knowledge, [C/CATF], did Robert Owen, Colonel North or any NSC official in Colonel North's office have anything to do with making the arrangements for the flights you described into [deleted], in other words identifying the carriers that would have been used or sub-carriers?

"Answer: I don't have any knowledge about that." And then you indicated I think in your deposition if the question was who ran the operation, it would have been different. If we had asked you who ran the operation, we might have gotten a different response.

[C/CATF]. I think one thing we are going to go over and over and over this because it is replete throughout this, and your point is well taken. I think you understand my point. The answer was Robert Owens, I don't think to this day he arranged flights. Oliver North I don't think arranged flights in a specific sense. And I don't know and didn't know at that point in time all the details. There were major gaps in my knowledge and they were there purposefully and I couldn't piece them together. Now my knowledge is a lot greater today than it was then. I've read a lot of material and I

want to be very, very up front on this. Those gaps were there be-

cause I kept them there.

Mr. Cohen. Let me come back to what you said this morning because I'm not sure that I have been satisfied about the attitude having been rectified. I think you indicated to counsel this morning, you said, if you had been asked you would have found a way to avoid answering it without lying. And that to me is almost tantamount to saying I ate the Frusen Glädjé and I would do it again. [C/CATF]. No.

Mr. COHEN. It is not the same?

[C/CATF]. It is not true.

Mr. Cohen. You said this morning if I had been asked I would have found a way to answer without lying.

[C/CATF]. You put me back in October 1984. Mr. Cohen. I'm putting you back this morning.

[C/CATF]. This morning. Now, that question was going back to if it had been asked on 14 October of 1986, how would you have answered it. It was a hypothetical situation, I gave you an answer that I thought may be what I would have done at the time. I could have also given you an answer gee, I don't know. That's speculative. Now that would have been—what I gave you was an honest answer. What I'm telling you, and I want to make a point here. I would hope you would accept it. I want to make this point very clearly, and I think I'm going to point the mike to Dick Giza and people on the Intelligence Committees. In testimony that didn't involve this thing, being caught in this nutcracker, I am very up front. I'm criticized in the Agency for being too up front with Congress, for writing answers too long, for being too forthcoming, for sharing too much—or I was. Attitudes are moving around a little bit but at one point in time early on.

Now I believe in that, I was. Let me put it very clearly. That was back about a year-and-a-half ago when I was criticized. When I said no, we are going to share information with Congress. We are going to get our answers up front because we have to build a consensus

on this program.

Now, in one area, one time when I was in this tremendous bind and was walking on nutshells, or on eggshells, yes, I did that. Would I do it again? Look to what I'm doing now. Look to the way I deal with the committees today in managing a very sensitive and equally controversial program and boy, it's all out there and that's the way it's got to be.

Mr. Cohen. I don't question that. I just want to make it very clear that I don't want to be put in that position again of having three witnesses at a table and one member of an intelligence committee ask a member who is sitting in a panel and have to go through and have everyone give the same answer for fear we didn't ask the right question before the right person.

I want to draw your attention to your deposition just to make sure that we are getting the full story and not just the broad

brush. On page—— [C/CATF]. One—

Mr. Cohen. This is your deposition before the committee. [C/CATF]. Which committee?

Mr. Cohen. This committee. I will get you the exact page. I will read it. You are being questioned about the NHAO channels and Ambassador Duemling and Project Hope and question: Under the reference to Project Hope—and that I believe is a reference to the notes of Ambassador Duemling, which is contained in [C/CATF] 15 on page 2 of those handwritten notes, you were asked a question. It says, "airstrip being prepared," in quotes. And the questioner, I believe Mr. Barbadoro, "you would agree with me that this appears to be a reference to the [deleted] airstrip in [deleted]." Answer: "It could be. It is not an unreasonable assumption." Question: "What else could it be?" Answer: "I don't know what else it could be." Then it goes on to the next page, "Can you think of any other explanation other than this airstrip [deleted] under the construction as being referred to here?" Answer: "No. I could but none of them make any sense. It could be anything." It seemed again that you were unwilling to say, of course that was the airstrip.

[C/CATF]. I testified—it must be the airstrip. I told you I can conjure up a thousand and one images. I don't remember that. I think that maybe my testimony yesterday and today should establish some credibility. I am laying out what I remember in very clear terms. I don't remember a previous conversation of that. I can conjure up things, but I'm not sure they are accurate and I don't want to lie. I do not want to give you something that is not true. That's what that appears. It probably was discussed there, I don't remember and I can't figure out why it is discussed there at that time and it just doesnt' make sense to me, but it could have

been discussed there and it appears it was.

Mr. Cohen. Senator Boren asked you about the time you were [deleted], and in 1984 you were shifted to the Central American Task Force.

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Cohen. 1984 is the time that McFarlane went to [deleted] and 1984 is the time that money started flowing from [deleted] to the Contras. I would like to go to your book, exhibit no. 1, page 2, which is a memo from, I believe it is Oliver North to Bud McFarlane, and I am not questioning whether or not you had any specific knowledge that [deleted] money is flowing to the Contras, but let me refer you to the bottom part of that page. It says, "first shared my assessment that quite the opposite was true, in other words, State Department said that the Contras are on the way out, can't hold themselves together" and then it says "[C/CATF] shared my assessment that quite the opposite was true, that the Resistance obviously had considerable outside support. I asked [C/CATF] if he was aware of the source of the Resistance funding. He told me no, the CIA had been trying to determine this but that it was obviously substantial. I told [C/CATF] that it was important that SNIE reflected the fact that there was substantial outside support which had continued for some months and showed no sign of abating. [C/CATF] agreed that this was the case. I asked him if the dollar amounts could be quantified. [C/CATF] responded they were spending about a million per month. I told [C/CATF] it seemed to me that should include this estimate." What is troubling about this particular item is, number one, we have you and others, including the Director, who say they have no knowledge of where the money

is coming from even though you know a million dollars a month is being spent. You suspect but don't really know whether it is [C/CATF] or somebody else making the contribution, but you have suspicions. Then you have Lt. Col. North suggesting that the SNIE ought to include the fact that these fellows are really getting a lot of money coming through and that they are holding together pretty well. It strikes me that here you have a case where you are in fact indirectly affecting the intelligence analysis without knowing or deciding not to know what the basis of that intelligence is.

[C/CATF]. At this point in time, I am in the task for 3 weeks. I am like that cat running around in the dryer trying to figure out where I am. I am in a big-league game and I am still a minor-

league player.

Mr. Cohen. But you were being manipulated at that point?

[C/CATF]. No doubt, and it was as I moved along that I began to understand that. That was an honest intelligence assessment of what I was seeing going down, and I was talking to a person—at that time I didn't know who Oliver North was and what he was up to, I had no idea. I was sharing my thoughts with him and he was saying that and it seemed to be a reasonable thing and we were disseminating intelligence at that point in time that would lead you to that conclusion. This is not cooking intelligence because they were paying bills, feeding, doing things, things that looked like they should be happening, weren't happening.

Mr. Cohen. But look what is being done in this process. You have Lt. Col. North, members of the administration going to [deleted] getting a million dollars a month [deleted]. Then the intelligence community doesn't know where it is coming from—I think you indicated the Cayman Islands and you said you traced it back to private donors beyond that. I think you told the Intelligence Com-

mittee as far as you got was the Cayman Islands.

"Answer: Yes.

Question: Did you have the intelligence community coming before the Intelligence Committee saying we don't know where the money is coming from, but it is out there coming and the Sandinistas are in good shape?" You have one agency being pitted against the other in terms of having no knowledge, and then coming out with an intelligence report saying there is substantial outside support when in fact

it is coming from one country that we have gone to.

[C/CATF]. We didn't know that. That is why when you come down to it, the headline in the Post 2 days ago that the committee didn't crack the case was wrong. That is it. You touched on cooking intelligence and that is something that I know Secretary Shultz commented and testified on, and I want to make it very, very, very clear that in the 20 years of my career, I have never cooked intelligence. I wouldn't cook intelligence. I will tell you why. I am not an analyst, I am an operations officer. If I cook intelligence, then my operations will fail. I consider myself to be a better analyst than most analysts because if I am not I can't run good operations. I wouldn't cook intelligence with you or anybody else. One of my greatest problems was trying to figure out sort of as I understood this money was coming in, I didn't know where it was coming from, to make sure that it was reflected accurately in the intelligence and get it reported and get it out and to figure out where it was coming from.

After awhile we concluded it was coming from the United States and just left it at that.

[Deleted].

Mr. COHEN. I think you indicated you met General Secord in 1979 and 1980. At that point Secord was with ISA, he wanted to sell Iranians a [deleted] aircraft, was that the AWACs?

[C/CATF]. No. [Deleted].
Mr. Cohen. In any event, you thought it was a stupid idea and

apparently Secord didn't like you from that point on.

[C/CATF]. I didn't meet him. We talked on the telephone. They were very blunt conversations and there has never been much love

lost from that point forward; that is correct.

Mr. Cohen. Between 1981 and 1982, of course, we did sell the AWACs to the Saudis, General Secord and Colonel North were the

point men on that for the administration.

[C/CATF]. I didn't know Colonel North was—AWACs is different

[deleted].

Mr. COHEN. I am just talking about the visibility of General Secord because Mr. Clarridge yesterday indicated he had never heard of Secord before 1986. Is Secord the type of name that would ever surface on his particular screen as such?

What was the attitude in the Agency with respect to Mr. Secord, because the Wilson case certainly caught the attention of a lot of

people at the Agency, including yourself, I assume.

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Cohen. General Secord was, in fact, implicated in that even though he was acquitted as such in terms of whether he was part of the operation, so the name Secord would flash on the screens of those at the Agency who were aware of the teaching of Mr. Wilson?

[C/CATF]. It might be regional, but certainly if you [deleted]

were at all astute, you knew about it, yes.

Mr. Cohen. If you read the daily newspapers, you would be aware of that. The Agency is coming under attack that one of its former agents is a traitor.

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. COHEN. Ed Wilson, and how about Mr. Shackley, Ted Shackley, Tom Clines, Quintero, are you familiar with these names?

[C/CATF]. I am now. I was not familiar with Quintero until

April of this year.

Mr. Cohen. How about Erich Von Marbod?

[C/CATF]. At some point I became aware of Quintero but I don't know when and where in time.

Mr. Cohen. At the time you were helping facilitate some of this activity in Central America you were not aware of Shackley,

Clines, Quintero, and Secord being involved?

[C/CATF]. Shackley, no, Clines, I have already testified when I saw Clines' name and what I did about that. Secord I think I have testified clearly when I saw Secord begin to come around. The first time I recall Quintero—I didn't know who he was in October, but I went back and looked at the traffic and his name was around, but I had to figure out who he was. You go back to my testimony in the cable where I said we may be bad, my call about Clines and my testimony about I didn't like what I felt out there when I saw it

and my historic background led me to think there were unsavories around.

Mr. Cohen. We know that Secord complained to Mr. Casey about you. Did you ever complain to Casey about General Secord and the other "unsavory characters" that started to surface during the course of this? Why didn't you complain to Casey about what was going on?

[C/CATF]. I did complain about Singlaub and what he was doing.

Mr. Cohen. As far as Pastora was concerned?

[C/CATF]. Just his activities. He was very pushy. And I complained about what he was doing. I just did not bring these things up to Director Casey. He didn't discuss them with me nor I with him.

Mr. Cohen. Were you aware of any relationship between Direc-

tor Casey and Oliver North?

[C/CATF]. I knew they were close and talked a lot. I knew the depth of that from some time in December 1984 in a particular incident I can go into with the committees. I knew they were close and that they talked a lot. But I did not know the substance of their conversations.

Mr. Cohen. I would like to come back to that. I think it is hard to imagine a team of you, Elliott Abrams, and Oliver North, almost like the Three Musketeers who were carrying on this operation, not talking to each other about the Contra operation but I would say the evidence that I have looked at contradicts that, that the fact is you didn't talk much amongst yourselves, if I look at some of the documentation. Even though that strikes me as being not credible on the surface, in looking at the documents I find some considerable evidence to support your position. Eden Pastora is one that comes to mind because I looked through your deposition [deleted], who you believe bid about his troops. You also believe [deleted], that everyone around him was involved in cocaine, and you wanted to "marginalize him" and I find it almost totally inconsistent.

We have had Abrams testify that he tried to get him back in.

[C/CATF]. We fought a lot about that.

Mr. Cohen. That lends credibility to what you have been saying

as far as not coordinating some of your activities.

[C/CATF]. Let me point out the hearings of Senator Kerry's subcommittee and Congressman Rangel's committee and what you have heard from [deleted] subsequently bore out the fact that there was a lot of rot around Pastora and it was right not to deal with him.

Mr. Cohen. I will conclude. I was impressed—you made a plea to Congress not to cut the Agency out when you came before the Congress. Part of the difficulty is that the fact is the Agency wasn't trusted to stay out of operations. I think that is—what accounted for the fact they went to State Department on the humanitarian aid is that we are not going to trust CIA to stay out of operations. We didn't talk much about it here today, but the 10-percent rule apparently at one time went up to a 50-percent rule.

[C/CATF]. And we stopped that.

Mr. Cohen. That is right, but it got started with a 10-percent rule that I was never aware of. Apparently you made reference to it before the House, but during the Senate testimony you never referred to the 10-percent rule. But I want to say to you, if Congress

is satisfied that it is being told the truth and the whole truth, then the distrust of the Agency will evaporate and that is what has to

happen.

Senator Boren is saying we have to go back and reestablish this bond of trust. I don't want to be in the position of wondering did I ask [C/CATF] the right question? Did I phrase it specifically? Is there anything that I haven't asked that should have been asked? Have I been artful, a good attorney—and I take pride in the fact of being an attorney—have I been a good one? Made sure I have squeezed every possible question, every point to it's logical conclusion? I don't want that. If that has to happen, there are Members on our Intelligence Committee who would want to put every Agency witness under oath. I am opposed to that. I think we will get less information rather than more if we do that, but that is what has happened as a result of this, and it has got to be stopped.

[C/CATF]. That is exactly what I have tried to do in this new program and in the past the one aberration is this. I think the record speaks for itself, and I will stand on what I have done, everything except some testimony related to this, and I think I meet those criteria and if I am allowed to continue as a professional in-

telligence officer, then I will continue to do that.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. The chair wants to remind everyone that this is an executive session. We have had a lot of very sensitive information this morning. There are a lot of people in this room. The rules of both committees require that we not talk about it outside this chamber. Since we ran over quite a ways, we will reassemble at 2:15 and begin at that point with Mr. DeWine, and I appreciate Mr. DeWine, yielding his turn.

The committees stand in recess.

[Whereupon, at 12:50, the Select Committees were recessed, to reconvene at 2:15 p.m., the same day.]

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Select Committees met, pursuant to recess, at 2:15 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lee H. Hamilton (chairman of the House Select Committee) and Hon. Daniel K. Inouye (chairman of the Senate Select Committee) presiding.

Chairman Hamilton. The hearings will come to order.

We will begin with questions by Mr. DeWine. He is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. DEWINE. You were the point man for the Contra aid program. Since the Contras have been receiving a hundred million from the United States, we have seen conflicting reports in the press regarding how they are doing, success and lack of success.

I wonder if you can give me and the committee a current assessment based upon your own knowledge of the situation in regard to

the Contras.

[C/CATF]. Yes. I can. I could tell you that the Resistance forces on the ground in Nicaragua today are doing better than we would have expected they would. We think they are placing stress on the Sandinistas.

They have the majority of their fighting forces in country, numbering [deleted] people.

Mr. DEWINE. [Deleted]?

[C/CATF]. [Deleted]. In country. [Deleted] in country. Fighting over large portions of [deleted] Nicaragua. [Deleted] the Resistance forces clearly have the initiative in terms of forcing the Sandinistas to react to what they are doing and that the Sandinistas don't like one bit what has been done.

[Deleted].

I want to add our analysts don't think the strategic balance has shifted in favor of the Resistance forces. They enjoy the strategic advantage.

The tactical advantage is with the Resistance forces today.

Mr. DeWine. Are you getting any information back concerning the—the question is more on the political as far as internal support for the Contras inside Nicaragua.

[C/CATF]. We are getting information on that. [Deleted].

What we see, however, in greater clarity is the fact increasingly the population of Nicaragua is unhappy with the Sandinistas. Most increasingly angry at the 1500-percent rate of inflation working there. The Sandinistas are becoming disenchanted.

However, those people are tending to sit on the fence right now waiting to figure out which way the wind is going to blow. [Delet-

ed]

Mr. DeWine. You talk about [deleted] in country. From an historical perspective, how does that compare with the number of people a year before?

[C/CATF]. It is the highest ever.

Mr. DEWINE. Highest ever?

[C/CATF]. Ever. A year ago this time there were [deleted] or so in the country. It is well over doubled. [Deleted].

Mr. DeWine. Besides the high inflation that you have mentioned, what else, what information are you getting back about the

internal economy?

[C/CATF]. The internal economy is in absolute shambles. It has been badly mismanaged. The productivity rates are down, the export rates are down, the inflation rate is up, machinery is break-

ing. It is the real Achilles heel of the Sandinistas.

They have an economy where they have serious, serious problems. The war is causing them to divert [deleted] their resources into the war effort away from the economy and it is a drain on their manpower. What essentially you have got is a cross ruff going on with the war driving the economy into distress, the economy is separating people. The trick is for the Resistance forces to create a viable alternative that is attractive to the Nicaraguan people to generate that latent animosity at play for the Sandinista regime.

[Deleted].

Mr. DeWine. There was one portion of your testimony that confused me. I just want to clarify. I want to go back into it a little bit. Again, the time in October of 1986, October 14, when you were in front of the House Intelligence Committee. Clair George, could you tell me—when you walked into that meeting that day, what you thought he knew at that point? I don't quite understand what you

thought he knew before you went into the meeting. I apologize if

this has been gone over in this hearing.

[C/CATF]. I will try to go over it. I thought that Clair George knew that Ollie North was involved in causing things to happen for the Resistance forces and that he was facilitating to some degree or to a real degree the activities of the private benefactors, the donors, so on and so forth and had been, was the administration's point man for rallying and directing private aid to the Resistance forces.

I didn't think that he had the same level of detail that I had, but he had the—I felt he had the broad outlines and knew in general details that Ollie-general details what Ollie had been up to without the specificity we have gone into and that I have talked to about the committees today, but enough certainly to know, as I think did a great many people in Washington, frankly, about what Ollie was doing. I would like to sort of quote what I said in my final comment to the grand jury, really up until today, one of the toughest questions I have been asked, by the foreman.

He said, [C/CATF], you knew and developed this information over this point in time, why didn't you report it to somebody?

And my answer was, to whom should I report?

People from Capitol Hill? To the White House? To the State Department? To Langley? The Pentagon? They knew Ollie North was around the Central American operation. If people wanted to look at it in depth, it was there to see.

It was no secret in Washington. And that is really—I thought that Clair had a general understanding of what was going down as did a great number of people in Washington. I did not think it was a great secret.

Mr. DEWINE. Very quickly, as your testimony continued that day, did your understanding change at all? Did that change it in

any way? I don't know that it did.

[C/CATF]. As I recollect, I don't think my recollection—my understanding changed. I thought that Clair was answering the questions on a narrow basis, focusing on the Agency. I think if you look at the construction of his questions that is exactly what he was doing.

[Deleted].

Mr. DEWINE. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, if I could reserve the balance of my time. I don't know if I will use it or not. I may not use it.

Chairman Hamilton. The gentleman from Ohio reserves 3 min-

Mr. Rudman. [Deleted].

[Deleted].

Chairman Inouye. Senator Mitchell.

Mr. MITCHELL. You were asked this morning about your testimony to the Intelligence Committees following the downing of the Hasenfus flight. I want to ask you about Secretary Abrams' testimony on the same panel before you and any conversations you had with him. When he was before this committee, I was told that his testimony regarding that was in his words completely honest and completely wrong. He said that he was unaware at the time he testified that his categorical denial of any involvement by U.S. Govern-

ment officials was inaccurate.

He also made that same statement in public several times. He testified that he was not corrected by any other officials after he made those categorical statements and, therefore, repeated them and continued to believe them to be true. Indeed, the lack of being informed otherwise by other officials apparently contributed to his confidence in their accuracy.

Now, you apparently testified this morning about your testimony at the hearing. My question is: Did you ever tell Mr. Abrams that his information was not accurate, either after a hearing or at anytime thereafter during that period of several weeks when he re-

peated those same inaccurate statements in public?

[C/CATF]. I don't recall having done that, calling him aside and

saying "You are not right on that point." I don't recall that.
Mr. MITCHELL. Why didn't you? If you were present when a government official made statements to committees of Congress and then repeated them in public which you knew were inaccurate, if you had been in Mr. Abrams' position, wouldn't you have appreciated someone telling him you had better stop saying that, it is not

[C/CATF]. I didn't know what the status of Mr. Abrams' knowledgability was. I thought, and I don't know the man, I am not going to impeach his testimony, I don't want to do that, but take away conversations that I had with Ollie North, various things, any glimpse I saw by then of my operational activities and the understanding of just the know how operations and how that unfolded, I didn't quite know how he got to where he got to, and I didn't ask him how he got there. I didn't get involved with it. I didn't understand, I didn't ask him about it. I just left it sit there.

It's all part of a passivity that I described to the committee just

to get through troubled waters and get on to the next program.

Mr. MITCHELL. I understand you felt in an awkward position then and feel in an awkward position now.

Let me state it more directly, what you are telling us is that at that time your state of mind was you thought that Elliott Abrams knew the facts and believe he was stating them, making false state-

[*C/CATF*]. No, I felt that Elliott Abrams-

Mr. MITCHELL. The statements were false, he acknowledges that now. The question is whether he knew they were false.

[C/CATF]. I don't know what was in his mind, and I can't specu-

late on that.

Mr. MITCHELL. What did you think at that time? I am not asking you to speculate now. I am asking what you believed at that time.

[C/CATF]. I will tell you my reaction. I was taken aback by the statement, and I have subsequently talked to Mr. George. Mr. George was taken aback by his statement. I don't know, maybe I incorrectly assumed, therefore, because I have tremendous respect for Assistant Secretary Abrams, maybe I assume, which I did, I just kept my mouth shut.

Mr. MITCHELL. Is it fair to say, although you had no specific information about the state of his knowledge, you were taken aback,

you thought he knew the facts?

[C/CATF]. Not the facts. I thought he would have a broad brush understanding, as did a lot of other people, Ollie was in and around those things. Again, I didn't know how much detail. I didn't know how he got to that statement, and I left him with that statement and said he has got to be comfortable with himself, he's there, and that's that.

Mr. MITCHELL. All right. Thank you. I won't press that any further.

[*C/CATF*]. Thank you.

Mr. MITCHELL. You said this morning at one point that because of the circumstances you found yourself in, you were, I believe you said, bitter at the administration and at Congress?

[C/CATF]. Yes, sir.
Mr. MITCHELL. Why were you bitter at Congress?

[C/CATF]. Because I felt that it was frankly tough, rough, bipartisan politics that got us here. I think that the delaying-I am going to be very frank. I thought the delaying tactics of the Speaker of the House and the Rules Committee attendant to the \$100 million program was tough, rough, first class, big-league political sort of legislative warfare, delaying it and tying up when that bill went to conference, it got us into August, into September, it got us into October. That is one.

Frankly, I thought that the decision of the House of Representatives, once again, tough, tough partisan politics that rule CIA out of the legislation and left us in an awkward and extended and difficult position, and I felt that the plea that we had made in October in large part in some measure, because I had pushed the issue very hard, to allow CIA to get back into support of the logistics game and was ruled down in the Senate-House Intelligence Committee conference on the fiscal year 1986 legislation, left us hanging out.

In short, I felt that I had made just Herculean efforts for a person in my position three times to get out from under the legislative vice I was in and three times, because of partisan politics, it was turned down, and I couldn't see any reason for it except for partisan politics, and I felt that left me in a continuing, exposed situation and that—to this day, it sticks in my craw.

The reason I am here is partly because of that.

Mr. MITCHELL. You are a career official in an intelligence agency

and you regard disagreements over policy as partisan politics?

[C/CATF]. I believe, and as a career intelligence official, it is my duty to serve the administration. If that administration is right in its policies, I-in my-I serve them. If it is wrong I serve them and I try and change it. If the Congress is wrong in its policies and I am in a position as I was in, I serve the policy and try to work with the Congress to change it. That is how I see my job.

Now I have been in Democratic administrations as a career intelligence official and I have been in Republican administrations as an intelligence official, as a civil servant. I served in [deleted] when it was the policy of the Carter Administration that the U.S. Government had no strategic interest in [deleted]. I thought it was dead wrong. I thought it was a silly policy. I stayed [deleted]. I did what I was told. I served the Administration, I filed my reports and tried to change the policy.

I came back and in this job I was in a situation where I felt the administration—I don't feel, I know, but it is still interpretative, so I will say my opinion is that the administration is dead right about Central America, the Congress is wrong and I worked as hard as I could to change it. Maybe I am wrong, maybe I am naive, that there is every right to disagree, every right for Congress to voice its disagreement, but when push comes to shove there's got to be a

boss; someone has got to make a decision.

As I said in my opening statement a house divided against itself cannot long endure, and I think that the final prerogative to make a decision and the man with his hand on the helm is the President, and he wanted to do it and I am going to quote you Chairman Hamilton, when the law passed, Congress passed a very awkward law, difficult to administer, put us in a terrible position, we talked about it in your office, you knew we were in a bad situation and you said we will try to help you implement this thing as best you can, even though I'm against it. I knew it was bad. I just couldn't understand it. There was a law. Why give us half a loaf, why give us something that we couldn't implement right. It was just ludicrous and it was partisan politics because the Congress didn't like Bill Casey and the Congress didn't want CIA in because of the mining of the harbor and we couldn't get over our internecine warfare and it shouldn't have been that way.

I am bitter, but it is not just Congress. I share it with the administration for hanging me out in November, December, and January

through silence.

Mr. MITCHELL. I understand. You explained that. In the first place your obligation is to the Constitution and the laws, not to any administration and when you swear an oath it is to obey and defend the Constitution and the laws.

[C/CATF]. Absolutely, there is no doubt.

Mr. MITCHELL. I will just say that I think it is demeaning and insulting for you to suggest that those who happen to disagree with you on policy are engaged in partisan politics, obviously used in a pejorative manner as though there is something in our system that in which a person who disagrees is acting in a partisan manner but a person who agrees with you happens to be right, and I think it is simply preposterous to suggest that those who opposed Contra aid did so because they didn't like Bill Casey. I would hope you would have a somewhat higher opinion of the motives of those who happen to disagree with you on an issue that people would vote on important policy issues on that basis. But—and every Executive Branch official has an obligation to obey and uphold the law, and not to select which laws will be obeyed or will not be.

I had some other questions but my time is up. I merely wanted to

make that comment.

[C/CATF]. Sir, I obeyed the laws, I think the record is clear that I made decisions to stay within the laws. I don't mean any disrespect for those in the partisan sense. When I said partisan politics, I meant it as a descriptor. As a matter of fact, I had great respect for the skill and ability of the Speaker of the House and what he did, I thought it was a masterful performance.

Mr. MITCHELL. Well, it is noteworthy that you used the phrase partisan politics only to describe those who disagree with you.

never ones to describe those whose actions agree with you.

[C/CATF]. That perhaps is a poor selection of words. I don't mean to leave that out, but I do think that once the Congress acted and passed a law we should have had a law that we could have implemented as effectively and as efficiently as possible, and we did not have.

Mr. MITCHELL. The fact is that the President's veto power gives him enormous influence in the process of writing laws in the first place, and the Boland Amendments themselves were the product of compromise which we go through here all the time, every member of this committee has been in a conference where we write the laws and the Executive Branch official is sitting right there and it is a three-way negotiation to try to figure out what we can pass that will survive a Presidential veto and the result is you do get laws that are sometimes frustrating to some and ambiguous to others, and not as clearcut as everyone would like, and one of the reasons for it is the significant role that the Executive Branch plays in writing the laws by virtue of the President's enormous power as through the veto, and that is what occurred here and what occurs every day when the Congress is in session.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Rodino.

Mr. Rodino. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[C/CATF], on March 31, 1986, two FBI agents and Assistant U.S. Attorney went to Costa Rica to investigate allegations of gun running to the Contras by John Hull, Rob Owen, Oliver North, Tom Posey and others. Were you aware of this investigation?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I guess generally I was but I don't recall it specif-

ically. But generally I must have been.

Mr. Rodino. Do you recall when you became aware?

[C/CATF]. I would have to check the record, but I was—it was roughly sometime in the spring of 1986, when people were looking at the lawsuit surrounding the possibility of drugs and money and John Hull and such. But I don't remember—sometime in the spring of 1986, but I don't remember when exactly without checking records.

Mr. Rodino. Can you recall who called this to your attention or

did you learn it yourself?

[C/CATF]. In the course of my normal duties, I think it was partially through reporting from [deleted] and then I think that it came up because a complaint was filed if I recall correctly with the U.S. District Attorney in Miami, Florida at some point in time during that year, and I read the complaint.

Mr. Rodino. When you say [deleted], whom are you referring to?

[C/CATF]. [Castillo].

Mr. Rodino. Did he then report to you regarding this investigation?

[C/CATF]. He reported to us regarding the allegations that were being done and information about the fact that an investigation was going and a suit or a possible suit was going to be filed, and I don't recall all the details of that.

Mr. Rodino. Are you aware of any cables or other traffic concerning this?

[C/CATF]. Yes, there were cables concerning it, but not about

that. [Deleted]——

[Counsel conferring with witness.]

[C/CATF]. And there were, as my attorney points out, a number of questions that we prepared in response to congressional investigations on this issue. So generally there was a lot of exchange on that. I don't remember the details of it, but it was no secret and I knew about it.

Mr. Rodino. But the cables did reflect and report on the investi-

gation

[C/CATF]. On the FBI investigation?

Mr. Rodino. Yes.

[C/CATF]. No, [deleted]. I don't recall specifically cables on the FBI investigation per se. There may have been some, but I don't recall them.

Mr. Rodino. Was Oliver North to your knowledge aware of this

investigation?

[C/CATF]. In general terms he must have been, yes, because it was public knowledge and—

Mr. Rodino. Did he talk to you about it?

[C/CATF]. Not that I can recall specifically, but it is possible in the context of one of the meetings he might have mentioned it, but I don't recall. I don't recall specific conversations about it. It is probably I guess as I think about it that he would have discussed it with me.

Mr. Rodino. Do you know what if anything was done about the

investigation?

[C/CATF]. Not that I can talk to firsthand. It may be that I knew more details about it at one point in time than I can remember right now. As I recall the initial case was thrown out of the District Court for some reason, and had to be refiled and I think the investigation may have been stopped because of that or it may

have gone forward. I just don't know the details of it.

Mr. Rodino. I am going to refer you to exhibit 41, which is—I think this was discussed today, but it is an excerpt from your interview by the Tower Board and you stated that a courier met Director Casey in Central America sometime—in the latter part of November of 1986, probably around the 19th, or so, to deliver materials so that Director Casey could prepare for his upcoming congressional testimony.

And according to your testimony, this courier whom you identified this morning as I believe [deleted], said that Director Casey at that time, you know there may be a problem on diversion. My questions—what did Director Casey say when [deleted] made that

remark?

[C/CATF]. [Deleted] said it to me. He said [C/CATF], it looks like there may be a problem with Iran money. There is intelligence that indicates that more was paid in than came out. I just looked at him and said wow, or something like that. I don't know that he told Director Casey that.

Mr. Rodino. Was Director Casey in your presence?

[C/CATF]. No. He was on the airplane and [deleted] and I were standing off to one side. We were on the tarmack at the airport, [deleted]. So I don't know that Director Casey ever heard that one way or the other.

Mr. Rodino. What did you take [deleted] comments to mean?

[C/CATF]. What I said, that there might be a problem out there with the Iran program. I didn't know much about it. When I heard that I suspected that there might be a problem with it.

Mr. Rodino. After hearing that did you make queries about it? [C/CATF]. I did not because I didn't know anything about the Iranian initiative and I kept my mind on trying to get [deleted] and I really didn't pay that much attention to it.

Mr. Rodino. Did you report this to Casey? [C/CATF]. No. He took off on an airplane to come back immediately, I stayed in Central America and continued the trip and subsequent to that I may have had only one more meeting with Director Casey before he died.

Mr. Rodino. Did you report it to anyone else in the Agency?

[*C/CATF*]. No. No.

Mr. Rodino. So there was no followup at all?

[Counsel conferring with witness.]

[C/CATF]. No, I didn't—no, I knew that it was being followed up in the context of this thing, in the context-

Mr. Rodino. What do you mean?

[C/CATF]. I knew the Director was coming back and was to testify, and others were looking at this thing, and I didn't—it was not my portion of the pie, and I didn't focus on it. [Deleted].

Mr. Rodino. This didn't give you any concern when he said there

is a problem with this?

[C/CATF]. It gave me a concern, but I [deleted]. I was [deleted] and didn't followup on it. I didn't know anything about it, and with those things you have to have one or two pieces of data out there to be able to link something together. It was a passing comment,

and it just was a passing comment.

Mr. Rodino. I have no further questions, except that I want to say, Mr. Chairman and [C/CATF], I have been here listening to [C/CATF] testimony, and I know that at least during this session of his testimony he has attempted to tell us clearly whatever questions I guess were being asked of him and to respond as best he could. I'm a little distressed, though, and I must say so as a member of this committee and as a Member of Congress, recognizing that responsible people in government, and I'm sure that [C/CATF] has a responsible job and certainly one that is very sensitive, but very frankly, having listened this morning to your responses to Senator Cohen, and then responding to Senator Mitchell, I feel part of this government, and I'm sure that we all respect the law and I'm sure you do, as you say you do, and the Constitution, but it seems to me that when you suggest that you were not happy or you felt that the Congress hadn't done what you had expected them to do or what they should have done and you found yourself in sort of an awkward position because you believed that there was something that needed to be done and you felt that you could act and act in the manner in which you did, and to many of the questions that were put to you by members of an intelligence

committee which needed information and on which I believe a good many of us have to rely who are not members of that committee, when we look to the Congress as a co-partner, a co-equal in trying to run this government, it bothers me really when you talk about, well, I was technically correct, and yet not actually specifically accurate, and I wonder how we are going to run this government of ours really, and recognizing that there is a need for covert actions, there is a need for ensuring that we don't permit it to go beyond the few people whom we consider responsible and who the Congress few people who are considered responsible and who the Congress has established as the receiving committee or the receiving group are in effect deceived and lied to, I don't know how we are going to run this government of ours and run it in a manner that the people are actually going to continue their trust.

Now, I don't expect you, of course you have said, and I heard you and I note that in your responses you also interjected how badly you felt and how terrible it was, and it was a terrible time and how you are trying to sort of put it all together now, but it seems to me

we ought to learn a lesson from all of this.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Ínouye. Senator McClure.

Mr. McClure. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

[C/CATF]. I want to return for a moment to a very early exhibit. If you will return to your book, [C/CATF] no. 1, that is a November 7, 1984, memorandum from Oliver North to Robert C. McFarlane.

The second page of that memorandum, near the bottom of the page, it says, "I asked [C/CATF] if he was aware of the source of the Resistance funding. He told me, no, that CIA has been trying to determine this," et cetera.

You see that statement?

[C/CATF]. I'm looking for it.

Mr. McClure. Near the bottom of the second page.

[C/CATF]. Yes, I see it. I was on page 3.

Mr. McClure. Do you recognize that this is not your memorandum, it is that of Mr. North? Do you recall Colonel North asking you if you were aware of the source of the Resistance funding?

[C/CATF]. No, but I believe this is a good point in time for me to put something on the record that is not on the record. The reason it is not on the record is frankly, the first three times I testified to the Senate, to the Tower Commission, and after that, to—I don't remember, a couple of other times, I forgot it. Then I remembered it, and I just didn't put it on the record. I'm going to do it today.

At some point in November of 1986, I don't remember the time, I would have put it later than this, there were a series of events, and I don't recall them—I was trying to figure out what was happening, and I began to wonder whether or not Oliver North were not involved in something. I took it to my supervisor, my supervisor took it to Clair George, he took it to Director Casey, Director Casey convened a meeting between Clair George, the Division Chief and myself and Oliver North, and confronted him. He said, "Ollie, are you operating in Central America?" And Ollie said, "No, I'm not operating in Central America."

I was obliged to kind of lay out my concerns. Ollie backed out of the meeting. It was about 10 minutes. It was a terribly sort of awkward meeting. We left that meeting. Ollie went his way, I went back and Clair George and I sort of talked about it a minute and that is where I, along with Clair, decided that we were going to stay within the bounds of the law, how we would handle the problem if it was a problem, and it might have been this kind of precipitated this memo. That was the first time that I really began to understand this.

That has never been put on the record anywhere before today that I know of. I forgot the thing and didn't put it on the record in my deposition because it didn't come out and it didn't fit into the conversation at that time, but it does now. I want it on the record. I think it begins to set some of the backdrop as I develop the nutcracker that I was in.

Mr. McClure. The second part of that sentence after he told me no, it says that "CIA had been trying to determine this." Do you know of any other efforts other than the one you referred to?

know of any other efforts other than the one you referred to?

[C/CATF]. We were trying to figure out what was happening. We were trying to find out [deleted] what was going on. We were doing calculations. We were then fully collecting intelligence because one of the key intelligence questions confronting the Central American Task Force was, can the Resistance survive and how long. Our projections were that there was no money and they were going to fall apart and they weren't. So we were looking at it wondering where the money was coming from.

[Deleted].

Mr. McClure. Was that a decision made to protect the U.S. Gov-

ernment or a decision made to protect the Agency?

[C/CATF]. I think it was both, a decision done to protect the Agency and a decision to work in cooperation with the Congress, to not be in a position where directly or indirectly we might be influencing the political process or accused of that.

Mr. McClure. Was that for the Government or for the Agency?

[C/CATF]. I would say for both.

Mr. McClure. If it were for the Government, why was it acceptable to hand it off to North to run with these private benefactors?

[C/CATF]. Because we were—we wouldn't be using appropriated funds. The Agency would have had no direct involvement in it [deleted]. You have to remember that if it went off, I didn't know how that was working and I thought that someone would just be taking care of it.

Mr. McClure. Thank you very much, [C/CATF].

I yield back the balance of my time. Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Hyde.

Mr. Hype. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am going to try and moderate my approach to what I want to say—more in sorrow than in anger—which is difficult for me to do because I really have some things to say about partisan politics, which apparently is a stranger to this committee and to this Congress. There is an old saying, "don't kid a kidder," and it is my thesis and in that perhaps you are not alone that partisan politics is one of the strongest—take partisan away—raw politics is one of the strongest forces that moves and shakes this body, meaning the House and the Senate.

I got a lesson in politics one day when I said on the floor while we were debating the nuclear freeze, I said to one of the smartest people on Defense matters, the brightest, most learned, a real leader—I said, blank, how can you support this nuclear freeze, because it harms us in negotiating arms control with the Soviets? And his answer to me, kind of tossed off, was "party policy." And it occurred to me that party policy is very strong around here and I got a lesson in practical politics. Now we, we complain, this committee, complains that we bypassed the Secretary of State, we bypassed the Department of Defense when we had this goofy off-thewall Iranian arms hostages operation. We were working it out of a gerrymandered National Security Council with commercial cutouts and lack of accountability. And that is right, I agree, I think it was nonsense. But then didn't we, in all our wisdom, impose upon the people who worry about Central America, a hybrid ad hoc gerrymandered little group called The National Office for Humanitarian Assistance, or whatever its name, and impose upon them a task of distributing humanitarian aid down there, knowing we couldn't get down there because [deleted] didn't want to touch it with a tenfoot pole, looking around Washington to find people with some experience on something that was unique and had never been done before, and blocking out the CIA, blocking out the Defense Department.

Anybody that had any expertise was ineligible, and that was in wisdom we did. I don't want to call that partisan politics. Call it stupidity if you want, but that is what we did in all our wisdom. I can say that, I am protected by a speech and debate clause, so I'll say stupidity. Remember ignorance is salvageable, ignorance is forever.

You can say it was because we disliked Bill Casey or we distrusted the CIA but I don't know what we had against any agency that had an intelligence capability and imposed it on the national office, as though one ever existed, and then demand a meticulous accounting for everything they did. I don't know what you call it, if you can't call it partisan politics or raw politics. Let me just say, at least partisan politics has a rational basis. When you get visceral politics then you go off-the-wall, and it is my thesis—nobody has to agree with me—that the visceral contempt that the President of the United States was held in, at least insofar as Central America's policy is concerned, by the Speaker of the House, had to be—I don't know what else you could say. When the Speaker of the House says Reagan won't be happy until he has our boys down there in Central America fighting—the Speaker said that several times. In other words, the President won't be happy until American boys are down there getting killed. I don't know how you deal with somebody who feels that way or who gets their intelligence from the Maryknoll nuns on Central America. I would say you have problems dealing with that. Maybe we don't call it partisan politics. Give me another name and I will be happy to adopt it.

This committee, the cream of the cream, present company excepted, is supposed to be, and I will stipulate to that, I am lucky to get in the room, but I will tell you this, this committee is not above operating partisan politics because a letter went from the chairman of this committee, the two chairmen, to Director Webster on

June 25, asking for certain things. It was not submitted to the vice chairman, it was not submitted to the ranking Republican, but—you don't know anything about this—carbon copies went to Senator Boren, Democrat, went to Representative Lou Stokes, a Democrat, because they are chairmen of their respective intelligence committees, but no Republican was part of that. An important letter wanting some action done by the CIA, but no Republican was a part of that.

I don't know how you characterize that. A typographical error, a

secretarial oversight?

I don't know. But it is wrong. It is partisan politics. It shows you don't trust the Republicans. That may be well justified, but it shouldn't have happened, and it is partisan politics. So here is one member that does not fall off his chair when I hear partisan politics blamed for what goes on around here.

I agree, I think partisan politics is stronger than the sex drive on this Hill and that is saying something, and I yield back my time.

Chairman Hamilton. You should.

Mr. Inouye. Senator Sarbanes.

Mr. SARBANES. [C/CATF], you said earlier at the Gregg meeting you didn't like what you saw, but I wasn't quite clear what it was you saw that you didn't like. And I wonder if you would develop that.

[C/CATF]. I think I didn't like what I heard would be more accu-

rate, what was going down.

As I reported or as I told the committee, starting at about May, maybe slightly before that, I was trying to pull myself back. I was trying never to get involved, to keep my involvement within the bounds of propriety, within the bounds of law and particularly in the summer of 1986, was back-pedaling as best I could to stay out of harm's way. That meeting took me in a direction I thought was

heading right for the shoals.

I didn't think that it was a topic that should have been discussed and I just didn't want to be there and hear what was being said and get into a debate over the efficacies or the pros and cons, the pedigree of whoever the private benefactors were. I didn't want to be pressed to associate or to associate myself with Felix Rodriguez. I didn't want to be pressed to sort of buy airplanes or to comment on buying airplanes or not buying airplanes. I just didn't want to talk about that and I didn't want to be in that meeting.

Mr. Sarbanes. Well, now, let me try to get a little more specific, so we are not, as you said earlier in an answer, technically correct, but specifically evasive. You said that you didn't think it was the CIA's job to investigate, if there was going to be an investigation, it

was the responsibility of the FBI.

[C/CATF]. That was with regard to trying to trace the sources of

the money.

Mr. SARBANES. And what was it that you saw that would call on

the FBI to have a responsibility to investigate?

[C/CATF]. I go back very specifically to that statement. I felt when I made that statement, and I made it several—I made it one time that I can recall explicitly, about the FBI, other times implicitly, where I said it was not our job to investigate U.S. citizens. I

thought the funding was coming from the United States, and I

thought the funding involved U.S. citizens.

I did not know the funding involved [deleted]. I did not know the funding involved a diversion from the Iranian accounts and, therefore, if someone was going to investigate where the money was coming from, it fell to an investigative agency not the Foreign Intelligence Agency, and that was the thrust of what I said and what I meant to do. It was an operation from the United States as best I could see from the bits and pieces of it, and was better and more properly investigated by that body or someone else other than us, and we did not, we undertook not to investigate it.

Mr. SARBANES. What was the illegality that you feared was

taking place that would warrant an FBI investigation?

[C/CATF]. I didn't know that there was an illegality—

Mr. SARBANES. No, I am not saying that you knew, but if you felt that an FBI investigation was warranted, what was the transgres-

sion that you saw that warranted it?

[C/CATF]. What I was saying, there was if somebody wants to know where the money is coming from and wants an investigation conducted, then someone other than us should conduct it because it was my belief U.S. citizens were involved, and you can say, CIA, why don't you do it and you have Executive Order 1223, all of the fall-out of the Church Commission, and the Pike Commission, and you can't have it, as I think Clair George said in his testimony on 14 October, both ways, we can't investigate U.S. citizens. That is where my level of knowledge was going to take me. And when I made those statements, my point was that if there was more information wanted on those things, it was my firm belief at that point in time that it led back to the United States and they were U.S. donors and that was something for someone to investigate other than me as a foreign intelligence officer. Right or wrong, that is what I believed.

Mr. SARBANES. And that is the aspect of that meeting that dis-

turbed you?

[C/CATF]. The totality of it, the fear of the unknown, what was going to be discussed, where it was going, who was going to say what. I just didn't want to be there because I felt it could put me in an awkward position and I didn't want to be in an awkward position.

Mr. Sarbanes. Now, let me ask you this question. I have been disturbed as I have listened to your testimony because I am frank to say to you I see no basis in the way you have responded to feel any assurance that if placed in, as you put it, in the nutcracker again, you wouldn't, in effect, repeat your performance.

I mean, you have asserted you were put in a difficult situation. I think you made the point to Senator Boren if you really want to look at how things would work, better look at what is happening

now. Is that correct?

[C/CATF]. That is correct. Now, and referring specifically to the way in which I am executing the trust that has been given to me [deleted] and the testimony and in cooperation with committees of Congress in executing the——

Mr. SARBANES. You are not in the nutcracker now. The fact of the matter is that the substance of the congressional position now

and the substance of the administration's position and, therefore, the substance of your position since, I take it, from your testimony on substance, you agree with the administration, are all intangible.

The difficult situation is when the substance of your position is at odds with one of those positions and in particular with a congressional position. I am not quite clear that if the situation had stayed as it was in terms of the congressional judgment or indeed were to return to what it was at the time of the application of the Boland Amendment, where do I find from your testimony the assurance that your performance would be any different?

[C/CATF]. Let me answer the question first by saying that I hope it is the outcome of this committee, the investigation and the lessons learned, no civil servant, no person in my position is placed in the nutcracker again. I think if we go through the annals of American history we are going to find this is a unique situation. There

aren't many like this one.

It wasn't that my personal beliefs, Senator Sarbanes, were different than the Congress of the United States. I have been there before. In not quite as direct a way. But it was the fact that has come out in front of this committee there was a dynamic working out there that I couldn't control that created the other side of the nutcracker, the congressional side was only one part of it. The administrative side was the other. And I made the decision, and you can criticize me for the decision, that I was within the bounds of the law and I would be very careful each step of the way to stay inside the bounds of the law, do anything and everything I could to support the administration in its policies.

And I did that. I would hope this would never happen again. If I am put in this situation again, I don't know how I will respond. It is hypothetical. I hope to God I am never there, I will work doubly hard not to get there again and I probably will respond differently because, quite frankly, I don't have the physical nor the moral energy to go through this thing again. That is the bottom line.

Mr. SARBANES. Let me add something to this, because I don't think it is simply a question of in a sense saying you don't have the physical or moral energy to go through it again. I think if you are in the posture of having to say to this committee, upon examining your actions, particularly with respect to the testimony that you gave, as questions were presented to you, and your answers previously in response were given to you where you finally had to say, well, those answers were technically correct but specifically evasive, I don't think at that point that you are dealing with a Congress, which is after all also an essential part of our government, in a forthright, good-faith manner, and it seems to me that it is out of that issue that I perceive your difficulties to have arisen.

I mean, I understand where you were in terms of the pressure on you within your organization in terms of your activities, but then to come to the Congress and participate, as you did, in terms of not replying, replying evasively, dissembling, it seems to me at that point you, in effect, have passed beyond being within the ambience

of certainly the spirit of the law. [C/CATF]. I would take exception to the word dissembling, I didn't think I dissembled. In times of crisis and pressure, each one of us makes our decision. I made mine, I live with it. I can't say anything else.

Mr. SARBANES. Well, I just—the only point I want to make-

[C/CATF]. I appreciate what you are saying.

Mr. SARBANES. —is that assertion, which on its face is candid and forthright, does still not address the substance of the problem. It doesn't give me any reassurance in the future if a comparable issue should arise for you to say, well, you make your decision and you live with it, because you know you may very well make the same decision and decide to live with that decision again in the future.

[C/CATF]. I don't mean to be flippant, but my mother teaches me actions speak louder than words. I can say mea culpa, I am sorry. All I can say, my actions and the way I manage my operations that were not attendant to the nutcracker I think speak loudly for themselves. Frankly, I enjoy interpersonal relationships, I enjoy working with Congress, I enjoy a spirited debate, and the situation troubled me then, it troubles me now. I can't do anything that is going to set your mind at ease, I can tell you like it is.

I can tell you, look what I did before, look what I am doing now, you have to make your own judgment. I would like to be more-

Mr. Sarbanes. Maybe it helps if you at least know that some of our minds have not been set at ease.

[C/CATF]. Yes, I understand that. Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Inouye. Senator Nunn.

Mr. Nunn. I am sorry I haven't been able to be here for all of your testimony. I don't want to repeat things, but I want to ask one or two questions. I understand you have already testified you did not know of the diversion of funds from the Contras—to the Contras from the Iranian arms sales.

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Nunn. When did you first learn of that?

[C/CATF]. In spades, in definitive terms, on the Tuesday, it was just—just before it was announced by the Attorney General. There ' was one indicator, as Congressman Rodino pointed out some days earlier, in that there was a discrepancy that may be looked at, but I did not assign significance to that at that point in time.

Mr. Nunn. Did you ever have a conversation either before or after that time, that Tuesday, that you learned of the diversion, did you ever have a conversation about the diversion either before or

after that period with Director Casey?

[*C/CATF*]. No.

Mr. Nunn. Did you ever have anyone tell you that Director Casey knew about the diversion?

[C/CATF]. No.

Mr. Nunn. You have never had a conversation with anyone in the CIA about whether Director Casey knew about the diversion?

[C/CATF]. The discussions I had about it were after we returned from the trip to Central America, as best I can recall them, and it was, I was a peripheral sort of inflow addressee is the best way to put it, about the Roy Furmark letter or the Roy Furmark claims, the [deleted] claims, and those other sorts of things that went back and forth.

But I never had a specific conversation with Director Casey about it. nor do I recall having specific conversations with anyone else. I was the sort of kibitzer on the side of the main action.

Mr. Nunn. Let's strike the word "specific conversation" and leave the adjective off and ask whether you have had any conversa-

tion with anyone in the CIA about the diversion?

[C/CATF]. I just said yes, that we talked about the Furmark memos and talked about the [deleted] memos and so on and so forth. But it's all kind of a melange in time, and I don't know exactly when it happened. My recollection would be in December when things were sorting out and stuff was coming down.

Mr. Nunn. December of 1986?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Nunn. Well, has anyone, either in or outside the CIA or inside or outside the U.S. Government, told you that Director

Casey knew about the diversion?

[C/CATF]. Not—I have heard what I have heard in the context of these hearings. No one else has ever told me anything about that except after December the letters, the Roy Furmark meetings. and those sorts of things that I learned about sometime in December, but no one ever came up to me and said Bill Casey knew about it prior to that time or didn't know about it. No, I am pretty specific about that.

[Witness conferring with counsel.]

[C/CATF]. Prior to this, and I don't know when it was, but one time, and I have been seaching my memory, it's sort of like the computer going round-and-round-and-round trying to dredge things up, I do recall the Director asking me, saying, [C/CATF], what do you know about where this money from the Resistance is coming from, and do you know about it?" I said, "I don't know much about it," and he said, "neither do I." I kept away from it. I haven't asked the questions on purpose, and that kind of left it there. That was about the only time the Director ever really raised those issues with me.

Mr. Nunn. About what timeframe would that have been?

[C/CATF]. Sometime in 1986. I couldn't put my finger on it. It was one of my meetings with Director. I would put it in the-I am guessing-but I would say sometime in the April to June timeframe of 1986, and that is a real guess.

Mr. Nunn. That would have been before the letter came from

the Canadian businessman and so forth? [C/CATF]. Yes, I am certain before that.

Mr. Nunn. Tell us again as nearly as you can what Director

Casey said about that.

[C/CATF]. What it was, I was standing getting ready to leave the room, and he said "[C/CATF]," he said, "what do you know about those, about the funding for the Resistance forces?" And sort of how it's being done and what Ollie is doing. And I said, "Not very much, I don't know where it's come from, I have stayed away from

He said, "So have I, I haven't asked any questions about it, I don't want to know about it. I've kept myself ignorant." That was the thrust of it.

Mr. Nunn. Where was that conversation?

[C/CATF]. In his office.

Mr. Nunn. Was anybody else there?

[C/CATF]. No, me and he.

Mr. Nunn. That is the only time you ever had a conversation

with Director Casey about the diversion?

[C/CATF]. That's not about diversion, that was about funding, in general. It was the only time I ever really talked with him about that. Wait, there's one other one. Before Thanksgiving—when was Thanksgiving? Does anyone have a calendar? Was it the 17th? Something like that. I got a phone call from Miami from Director Casey. I was at my office, I don't remember the date or the time, but he was on vacation in Miami, and it was when this whole thing was in full blow, and he said, he called me up and he said, "Don't worry, [C/CATF], we haven't done anything illegal, I first learned about this thing from Furmark and reported it right away, I don't want you to worry."

Mr. Nunn. So he specifically told you he didn't know about it

before then.

[C/CATF]. That is what he told me. He said, "[C/CATF]", don't worry." As you might guess, this whole thing is public, and my heart is in my mouth where it has been 8 months. He made that phone call, I was a little taken aback by it. It was from Miami. It was a secure line phone call.

Mr. Nunn. You never heard anyone else, either in the CIA or otherwise, apart from these hearings, say that Director Casey

either knew or didn't know?

[C/CATF]. No. We have talked about it and speculated about it. No one I have talked to said he knew about it. Nobody knows. Those are two instances in which he made comments to me.

Mr. Nunn. Do you know Colonel North?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Nunn. Did you know him pretty well?

[C/CATF]. I would say I knew him very well as a professional acquaintance. I didn't know him well as a social acquaintance.

Mr. Nunn. Did you hear his testimony where he said Director

Casey knew and they talked about it many times?

[C/CATF]. I didn't see it all, I saw snatches of it, and I read most of his deposition.

Mr. Nunn. I would like to ask you whether you believe that tes-

timony.

[C/CATF]. Sir, with your indulgence, I don't want to engage in opinions on it unless you really—I don't know what to believe. I can tell you another vignette, which I will, that will give you another side of Director Casey. At one point in time, I was in his office and he said, "You know, [C/CATF]," he said, "so and so said that I had terminal cancer. Isn't that preposterous? Isn't that the most ludicrous thing you heard? Do I look like a man with cancer?" I said, "No, you don't." Well, he did. And I had no idea. So I mean the man—I just don't know what to make of it. It is possible he did, it is possible he didn't. I walked out of that office that day thinking he didn't have cancer and he was going up to New York, I guess, for treatment of prostate cancer sort of on a recurring basis and I didn't have a clue about it.

Mr. Nunn. So at the time he told you that he knew he had cancer?

[C/CATF]. I would guess he did from what I understand. I don't know all the details but that is what I concluded.

Mr. Nunn. So you wouldn't know who to believe in that situation knowing both Casey and North?

[C/CATF]. I wouldn't want to bet on it.

Mr. Cohen. If the Senator will yield. You talk about playing with

words. He did say terminal cancer didn't he?

[C/CATF]. Yes. I wouldn't want to bet on it one way or another. I wouldn't want to speculate on it. I will say this from where I stand, I think there was a lot of truth in Colonel North's testimony. I never knew Colonel North to be an absolute liar, but I never took anything he said at face value because I knew that he was bombastic and embellished the record, and threw curves, speed balls and spit balls to get what he wanted, and I knew it, and I knew it well.

Mr. Nunn. Have you ever known anyone you would call an abso-

lute liar?

[C/CATF]. No, not absolute. I do know that I have seen, I have seen I guess the way to put it, I have seen Colonel North play fast and lose with the facts. And I think the record will substantiate that. But, on the other hand, I believe that there is a, from where I sit, from the glimpses I saw of this thing as the train windows went by, there was a lot of fact in what he said too.

Mr. Nunn. A lot of what?

[C/CATF]. Fact.

Mr. Nunn. Did Colonel North ever give you false information?

[C/CATF]. I would assume he did.

Mr. Nunn. Can you tell us what that was? Do you recall? Do you

know specific instances?

[C/CATF]. No. Let—the specifics aren't in my mind where he did give me false information but I know there were lots of times I suspected he was putting the spin on something that wasn't exactly the way it was. An attempt to influence the way things come out.

He dropped names a lot.

Mr. Nunn. Let me just ask you one closing question. In this business of covert activities you are involved in it, we are in a different world, we see part of your world, not all of it, and I sometimes have great sympathy for the position I know you all find yourselves in dealing with covert activities, but how important is it in dealing with colleagues in covert areas—I am speaking of people in covert areas in the executive branch—how important is it to them?

[C/CATF]. You can't lie. You have got to believe each other. Believe me, in the world in which I live and work, you have got to have a moral compass, a moral anchor. It keeps you clearly defined on where you are going, what you are, and what is truth and what is lie. If you don't, you will go virtually go and crash. We live in a schizophrenic world, a world where we deal with the lie as a tool of the trade. We deal with deceit, deception, and manipulation in a positive and negative sense. You can't lose sight of your moral compass, or you will end up like Terpil, Wilson, Clines or those people who did lose sight of their moral compass.

Mr. Nunn. Colonel North started his testimony, before revealing he had misled people to the point, some would call it lies, that covert activity is a lie in itself and the clear implication from that was once you undertake covert activity, being a lie in itself, everything that flows from that it seems by implication is excusable. Do

you agree with that philosophy?

[C/CATF]. I don't think covert activity is a lie, I think covert activity is a range; it is an operation undertaken to influence an event. You may deal in truth, in lie, coloration, wherever possible. As a standard operating procedure, we try to deal with truth. Truth is an easier thing to defend. We don't like to deal in lies, even disinformation because you get caught up in it. That doesn't mean we won't. But by and large our preference is to deal with truth. It is a deception. It is something that is designed to deceive, and frequently the recipient of the action or the viewer of the action, but to call it a lie in itself is only true in some regard—with regard to its deniability.

Mr. Nunn. Well, is it fair to say, and I know my time has expired, this is the last question, Mr. Chairman. Is it fair to say that those who deal with covert activities in the world of deception, in the world of secrets have to trust each other? Is that a fair assess-

ment?

[C/CATF]. Absolutely. If you can't trust each other, you are dead in this world.

Chairman Hamilton. The chair would like to point out Mr. George is waiting. I have three, or four I guess additional people on my side and the Senate has three.

I would like very much to get into Mr. George's testimony today

if at all possible. So, I just advise members of that. Mr. Fascell. Mr. Fascell. Thank you Mr. Chairman. [C/CATF], as Central American Task Force Director, are you part of operations?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I did.

Mr. FASCELL. Did you serve on the RIG?

[C/CATF]. Yes I did.

Mr. FASCELL. Did Director Casey charge you or task you as Director of Central American Task Force to do anything with regard to

the Nicaraguan operation at any time?

[C/CATF]. Oh, I am sure he did, yes. We would discuss it five quently. He would have me come to lunch and we would talk about it. And there were many times when he said [C/CATF] do this or do that or do the other thing, largely, in response to my recommendations. However, I can't remember a specific time when he

said [C/CATF], I want you to do that. He generally deferred to me. Mr. FASCELL. [C/CATF], as Director of the Central American Task Force, if you undertook a new operation, how did you get

your orders?

[C/CATF]. We would-

Mr. FASCELL. Did Casey give you the order?

[C/CATF]. It depended on the breadth and sensitivity of the operation. If it was a recruitment operation or a continuation of an operation largely undertaken, I would make the decision. If it was another, at a higher level of sensitivity, Clair George would approve my action.

Mr. FASCELL. You didn't take any action on your own though?

[C/CATF]. I did.

Mr. Fascell. You have the authority?

[C/CATF]. Yes, I do.

Mr. FASCELL. Without knowing what the task is?

[C/CATF]. I beg your pardon? I don't understand the question. Mr. FASCELL. Well, if you don't know what you are being tasked

for, how can you take authority to do anything?
[C/CATF]. I think that by and large I thought I knew what I was

being tasked to do.

Mr. FASCELL. That is verbal; it is not in writing?

[C/CATF]. It is in the context of an approved policy papers that are very broad and very general, Finding scope papers

Mr. FASCELL. Did you have one with respect to Nicaragua?

[C/CATF]. Yes, we did.

Mr. FASCELL. And when was it issued to you?

[C/CATF]. It was there when I came in the task force. And it was modified several times through as laws changed and as we went forward through the years.

I might add I initiated a lot of those things. I formulate the oper-

ations, and then they are approved and they come back to me.

Mr. FASCELL. You had to send it up the line?

[C/CATF]. Yes. Level of sensitivity is the main deciding factor. Mr. FASCELL. Have we got those modifications and variations of task in this committee? Can anybody on the staff tell me? I would

be curious anyway to see it.

When NSC took over the operations as distinguished from you running the operations, and you distanced yourself from detailed knowledge, as I understand your testimony, as part of compliance as CIA saw it, because CIA could not be directly or indirectly involved, that responsibility left you and went to North?

[C/CATF]. Never explicitly stated.

Mr. FASCELL. No, but that is what happened, as a matter of fact? [C/CATF]. I think that that is self-evident.

Mr. FASCELL. You served on the RIG?

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. FASCELL. Why did you serve on the RIG when the burden

was transferred? There wasn't anything you could do.

[C/CATF]. We still had statutory responsibility for providing intelligence to the RIG and also on the other side of the equation, deleted.

Mr. Fascell. So basically it boiled down to by necessity a joint operation in effect, although you tried to distance yourself from it at the time when it became clear that the CIA should not be direct-

ly or indirectly involved?

[C/CATF]. I tried to keep myself out of it almost right from the beginning, very, very early on in the process. Then as time wore on, I think that the magnitude of it and the complexity of it sort of drove people together. There was a natural force, I think, that it was-

Mr. FASCELL. But you had determined by then that this was an operation over which you had no control?

[C/CATF]. Absolutely, that is right.

[Deleted].

Mr. Fascell. Thank you very much.

Chairman Inouve. Senator Heflin.

Mr. HEFLIN. In regards to the account Elliott Abrams wanted to set up and you testified about that earlier, was there any discussion with Mr. Abrams or any other official of the Government that you had that he had acquired an alternate bank account number from the Brunei donation to be deposited in?

[C/CATF]. No. And the first time I heard about that was in December, when everybody thought that I had provided him a Swiss bank account and was somehow involved in the whole Swiss funding mechanism, the first days of this investigation was untangling

the facts and making sure everyone understood what I did.

The answer to your question is, no, I did not know that.

Mr. Heflin. Has Colonel North or Mr. Abrams or anyone given you any explanation as to why the bank account that you set up

was not to be used?

[C/CATF]. I accept the statement that Elliott Abrams made in his testimony. At that time I said that the meeting in the Pentagon in November was part of the real tug of war going on between CIA and the State Department on the structure and management of the program, which at the time I didn't understand because we had had fairly close working procedures before then, but after Secretary Shultz's testimony, I understood it a bit more clearly. And I think Elliott's explanation there was absolutely plausible. He wanted to control it because he wanted to reduce CIA influence in Central America.

Mr. Heflin. Colonel North testified that when he left the Government on 25 November, that the aid that had been voted in October, part of the \$100 million aid to the Contras, had not yet at that time got in the pipeline and been delivered to the Contras.

Would you give us an approximate date whenever that was start-

ing to be received by the Contras?

[C/CATF]. The major impact of it wasn't felt until December.

Mr. Heflin. So now the humanitarian aid ended on March the 31st, but some was in the pipeline, and he testified and documentary evidence verified that he thought it would run out around the

end of May.

I believe that you testified that you felt that—you had made the statement it would run out around the end of July. But from July to December, was there any evidence that you observed, learned about through documentary or voice or any other manner, either before or during this going on or afterwards, that would indicate where the humanitarian aid was coming from during that period?

[C/CATF]. Let me first correct the record. Ambassador Duemling and I calculated the aid out and we calculated that it would last

through the end of June and perhaps a bit longer.

In fact, I think it ended about the first week of July. From that point forward, all of our evidence indicates that the Resistance had no money. They started to accumulate a debt [deleted].

It was very clear that they were not-I repeat-it was clear that

they were not getting any money.

Mr. Heflin. All right. So now the Hakim-Secord enterprises, their account, as reviewed by our accountants, would indicate that during this period and during the entire period that they made any contribution, it was about \$3.5 million, and according to their re-

views of these accounts, none of that went to humanitarian aid, that theirs was largely transportation-related expenditures, and I believe you have told us that—about the airfield [deleted] and the fact that it really didn't play a part—I think our records would indicate that we have got something in the neighborhood of around \$320,000 that was spent there.

Did you see any evidence other than transportation-related expenses that—expenditures that came from the Hakim-Secord enter-

prises?

[C/CATF]. The short answer is no, and let me point out that when I testified in front of the Senate committee on 9 December, they asked me, I think it was in my testimony, if not, they asked me afterwards how much money I really thought had gone to the Resistance forces during the time in question, and my guess was between \$3 and \$4 million, and was it all transportation. There is a possibility that there may have been some arms deliveries in that timeframe, but I'm almost certain that from July forward there were no deliveries of any type, either arms or food, consumables that went to the Resistance forces.

Mr. Heflin. According to the accounts that we have—they may not be fully complete, but they would reflect that moneys from foreign countries, moneys from the Miller-Channell operation, all moneys either went into the Hakim-Secord accounts or into Calero's accounts as far as we know from donations from third parties

or from countries.

Do you know of any other funds that could have come from other sources that would have been of aid to the Contras during the year of 1986?

[C/CATF]. No, sir. As I testified, I didn't know where any of the moneys came from until this—revelations growing out of the proceedings after January, and I don't know of any others or how that

money was handled.

Mr. HEFLIN. Did you see any evidence that would raise a suspicion that it would come from sources other than what I've enumerated? That is the foreign government's contributions, the Miller-Channell types, what Calero raised on his own and went through his bank accounts?

[C/CATF]. Yes, let me be specific, not with Calero or the FDN or people in the North, but with the remnants of ARDE, of Pastora we developed information that they were receiving money from co-

caine trafficking.

Mr. HEFLIN. But not in the north—

[C/CATF]. No, we have looked at that as closely as I can. We see no indication that anybody in the north or anybody currently active in the Resistance has been involved in drug trafficking. We see considerable evidence, I think much of it has been talked about now in public, that people in and around Eden Pastora were in fact involved in cocaine running to the United States to raise revenue for their cause.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Boland is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. Boland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am a little distressed with one of the answers you gave to Senator Mitchell with respect to the fact that this is a very partisan

issue, the issue of Contra aid, and it is of course and everyone is entitled to his own opinion on whether or not aid should have been supplied to the Contras and whether or not that was the best pro-

gram for the administration to pursue.

I thought for a moment that I heard the voice of Admiral Poindexter, who said that one of the reasons for the great delay and one of the reasons for the problem in Central America with respect to the Contra aid was the Speaker, in that he dragged his feet in this particular area and on what ultimately led to the appropriation. I thought I would set the record straight at that time and I

would like to set the record straight now.

I will put into the record the dates and the actions of the Congress from February 25th, when the President made his initial request for a 100 million dollars to the Congress and wound up with the CR that he signed on October 18th. The request came on February 25th, for the 100 million dollars. March 20th the request was defeated in the House 210 to 222. On March 27, the request was approved in the Senate 53 to 47. On April 16th, the second House vote on the supplemental of the President's request was tabled because apparently the leadership on the Republican side, I presume, didn't think it had the votes, so the Republicans voted for the Hamilton substitute of \$27 million for humanitarian aid.

On June 25th the House approved a request in a Military Constructions appropriation bill, 221 to 209, a great victory for the administration. On August 13th, the Senate passed the Military Construction bill containing the Contra funds. August 14, recess begins

and on September 8th, recess ends.

September 25th, the continuing resolution passed the House with Contra aid included. October 3d, the continuing resolution passed the Senate. October 15th, the continuing resolution, the conference agreement passed the House. October 16th, the continuing resolution conference agreement passed the Senate.

October 18th, the CR was signed by the President. Where do you find the Speaker dragging his feet or acting partisan politics in

that particular litany, will you tell me?

[C/CATF]. Congressman Boland, I am not a legislative specialist. I was probably getting my information and my impressions from exactly the same sources that Admiral Poindexter was, and it grew out of the legislative meetings I attended at the White House and that was the impression that was at play there. If it is wrong, I stand corrected. I would have to review the record.

I would have to look at the agendas. It is not something I am an

expert in and it was--

Mr. Boland. If you are going to make the charge that the action on this particular bill was prompted by politics because of the Speaker's position, then I think you ought to set the record straight for yourself, which you said you would do.

Let me also say I am a little distressed about the response you gave again to Senator Mitchell's questioning when you indicated that some people didn't like Casey. I happened to like him and I became the first chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence back in 1977. That was at a time when the CIA had some problems and President Carter wanted to get a separate committee on the House side as the Senate did a year before us for

the purpose of making sure that not too many Members of the Congress would be privy to top secret information, and the House responded and that committee was set up.

I think it performed a valuable service to the entire intelligence community and as a matter of fact, Director Casey liked it so much that he awarded me the CIA Agency Seal Medallion. That doesn't

go to too many people.

In addition to that, there was a commendation sent to me and I indicated this was a commendation sent to me because of the committee's action, not particularly my leadership, but the committee itself, from General Faurer, who was a Director of the National Security Agency, and another citation from General Tigue, who was the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, all these agencies more heavily involved in intelligence than any of the other intelligence agencies of the U.S. Government. So it comes to me as quite a surprise you would say Members didn't like Casey.

One thing Casey had, Casey had the ability to win the friendship of those with whom he conversed, didn't always win the battles,

sometimes it was difficult to understand him.

In any event, I think I can say that he did have the respect of the Members of Congress and I think he did a lot for the Agency. As a matter of fact, the Agency was built up in dollars and in personnel heavier in those 7 years than it had ever been built up before. There was a question about whether or not we built up a

human intelligence. It was built up considerably.

Bobby Inman was a director who complained about the fact that the analytical section of the intelligence community was weak, that was strengthened and this committee was congratulated. So it is rather disturbing that you would sit there and I wanted to make the record clear, because you keep insisting you want to make the record clear. I have one question for you and you have had a distinguished career in intelligence, we need people like you but sometimes the intelligence community is responsible for the problems it might have because it fails to communicate in the way it ought to on the Hill with committees that are responsible for oversight. Let me point to one instance where you and Elliott Abrams and Clair George appeared before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence back in October of 1986, and this was reference to the Hasenfus shootdown. I think at that time, as I recall and the record indicates, that Clair George's response to a question with reference to the shootdown was that the CIA was not connected in any way with the Hasenfus operation. You knew, you knew at that time that the CIA was connected with the Hasenfus operation and you also knew that [deleted] was up to his neck [Castillo], in the operation of the Secord supply operation, did you not?

[C/CATF]. No, sir, that is incorrect. I knew that [Castillo], because the meeting in May 1986, in [deleted] had had some involvement. I thought we had cauterized that involvement and it had been put to rest. At that time I did not know the extent of [Castillo's] involvement. It came to my attention I believe the 23d of October, I brought it to the attention of my superiors, after it was investigat-

ed and our understanding was——

Mr. Boland. Let me interrupt you. You say it came to your attention in October 1986?

[C/CATF]. October 23, 1986, is the date, when I went to [deleted] with the interagency group and my discussions were as I said in the lobby of the hotel we were staying in, he told me about the telephone calls and I reported them back. Prior to that time my understanding of his involvement with the—direct involvement with the private benefactors was not well developed at all. As I testified I knew of a little glimpse in May, I did not know he had a KL-43 or that he was calling them on a regular and continuing basis. That was one point in testimony that is absolutely factual. That record was corrected in December of 1986, after the appropriate investigation was conducted——

Mr. Boland. You are familiar with the fact, are you not, that North has testified that you were familiar with the details of this operation. It was a military operation. I think you are also familiar with the fact that [Castillo] testified that you were aware of what he was doing and of course, the Secord operation could never have been successful without the complete cooperation of [Castillo] on the ground communicating with the Contras on communication equipment that was supplied, the KL-43 by the CIA or by Colonel

North?

[C/CATF]. I am familiar with the testimony. Colonel North said in testimony, I am sure he must have known, I think he knew, and he qualified it. He was wrong.

Mr. Boland. When you found out about the operation did you inform any of your superiors in the CIA of your knowledge of this

matter?

[C/CATF]. When I returned from [deleted] on the 23d or thereabouts of October, I reported what I had learned to [C/LA] who reported it to Clair George. As I testified before, that set in motion the wheels of investigation, the wheels of determining the facts. There is a memo in the record that lays those facts out dated 26 November, and so I did report them to my immediate supervisor, and he reported it to the supervisor above. It was reported to the Secretary of State that we may have a problem I think several days thereafter, and Elliott Abrams testified to that. I don't know whether Secretary Shultz did. So the answer to your question is yes, I did.

Mr. Boland. The red light is flashing. You are saved by the red light and I by the bell on the floor.

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Cohen.

Mr. Cohen. At the conclusion of my questioning [C/CATF] had a conversation with me concerning my previous question about the relationship between Director Casey and Colonel North, and he related an event that I think would be helpful to have on the record.

If you would care to repeat it for the committee?

[C/CATF]. Yes. In late November I believe it was of 1984, I received—I don't recall the precise date—I received a phone call at my home from Director Casey, very unusual for me at that point in time. I was eating dinner. He called up and said how are things going, I said you really want to know, boss? They are going terrible. We haven't got a policy, I don't know where we are going and I can't run the operations. He said see me in the morning.

I went up to see him and he said put down on paper for me a policy where you think we ought to go. I will get the policy, you

run the operations. I can't remember whether I told Ollie about that conversation or whether Ollie told me about that conversation, but Ollie knew about that conversation and Ollie said give me a copy of the paper. I said Ollie, I can't do that. I've got to put it through the system. It has to go to the Director and Ollie said, I'll talk to the Director, and he talked to him.

The next day, or sometime afterwards, I got a call from the Director, I remember that one fairly clearly because it was at his

EOB office. He said, give a copy of the paper to Ollie.

And that let me know that Ollie had a fairly close, direct rela-

tionship with the Director. I was a little bit surprised.

I brought a copy down, gave it to Ollie. Subsequently we put the paper through the system and it went up and I believe if you saw it today it is in, with all due modesty, it is about the policy we [deleted]. And that gave me some insights as I was developing, as I said, in December, in October, November, and December kind of the framework of where I was, kind of how Ollie fit in and helped me understand the dynamics I was living and working in.

Chairman Inouye. Senator Rudman.

Mr. RUDMAN. Thank you.

This morning or early this afternoon at the conclusion of your testimony being questioned by Senator Cohen, I believe you stated you would never dream of altering intelligence because as an operations officer such an operation would damage, destroy the mission you were trying to carry out. Is that not correct?

[C/CATF]. That is correct. Cooking intelligence. You can't have

intelligence on a false premise or you will have bad operations.

Mr. RUDMAN. I want to show you a memorandum of a draft trip report summarizing Director Casey's report in 1986. I believe you wrote that trip summary.

[C/CATF]. Yes.

Mr. Rudman. The Director, I assume, would use that report for preparing whatever he prepared for the President or others who relied on him.

[C/CATF]. Yes. He was going to use it as a talking points paper for whomever he talked with. I don't think he actually did, however.

Mr. RUDMAN. But that was the purpose? [C/CATF]. That was the purpose, yes.

Mr. Rudman. Of course, you are aware for the past number of years, although some of the Central American members have made statements to the contrary, we have all been told privately by the Secretary of State, I remember by Bill Casey and by others, [deleted]. That is accurate, you are aware of that?

[C/CATF]. That is accurate. [Deleted].

Mr. RUDMAN. Let me send you a cable that was sent to you on

November 25, 1986, from [deleted].

Now, that did not find itself into your trip summary. You were on the trip with the Director. This comes from [deleted] to you. It comes at a time where I assume it is the basis for the preparation of your intelligence report.

My question is very simple. Why is it that there is no mention [deleted] that it seems to me should have been included if whoever

was going to get that briefing from the Director was to get an accu-

rate briefing and evaluate it for however he wanted to evaluate it. [C/CATF]. I would have to go back and check my notes and look at the context of that. I am, frankly, a little bit stunned about [de-

Mr. Rudman. I don't read it that way, [C/CATF].

[C/CATF]. I know you don't, and I don't read it that way.

Mr. Rudman. I don't read it for the very good reason—we have been told a lot of-

[C/CATF]. I don't read it that way either, and I am a little

stunned by this.

Mr. RUDMAN. We have been told things, say one thing, mean something else. I have to assume we have a pretty good CIA, I

always thought so.

[C/CATF]. You are exactly right. I don't deny that and that should have been put in that report. Why it is not there, I don't

Mr. Rudman. Let me go on—I think, there is your answer, you

don't know and I sure don't know.

[C/CATF]. What I have got to do is try to go back and recollect all the notes and figure out why I did that.

Mr. Rudman. I would like to have an answer for the record on

that.

[C/CATF]. I will get you one.

Mr. RUDMAN. I would particularly like to know why the memoranda prepared for the Director which was the basis for one of the intelligence estimates he would have sent probably to the President or someone at the National Security Council level, that raw intelligence was not put in there, it seems to me it ought to be there.

[C/CATF]. You are absolutely right, it ought to be there. That is

not right.

Mr. Rulman. Let me go on to another related item. One of the things that I am sure, with the extraordinary record you have had in the Agency, it has to concern you as much as it concerns other people, is the whole feeling as expressed by the Secretary of State whenever you start mixing up the people who are doing the intelli-gence estimates and policymaking you get into kind of shaky ground. There is a handwritten note for a 9 January 1986, NSC briefing of Mr. Casey which read, and you were at the meeting, "The DCI wants to make the insurgency choice stark. Either we go all out to support them or they will go down the drain. DCI wants to add some detail on how we are going to strengthen the FDN."

Now that, of course, was during a period the CIA had a very limited role, according to the law that was then in effect. And I guess my question is: Would you agree with me that that note gives some credence to the fact that maybe there was some cooking of intelligence going on on which basis the President of the United States

was making some choices?

[*C/CATF*]. Would you read it-Mr. McGinn. Can we see a copy? Mr. RUDMAN. I will send you mine.

Mr. McGinn. Thank you.

Mr. RUDMAN. If you look at all these documents we have, and we have hundreds of thousands of them, there are some very interesting documents. This committee is going to have a tough choice in

deciding how many to publish because there are so many.

That is just one of a number I have had called to my attention I find most interesting to read in conjunction with the previous documents I have shown you.

[C/CATF]. I am still reeling from that one. I didn't understand

that one.

Mr. Rudman. Niether did I and I thought I would ask you about it.

[C/CATF]. I think that Director Casey, who is the senior analyst, really believed that the choices were and are stark. I believe that the body of intelligence there is to support that, that particular statement, and it was the assessment, that is the assessment that as intelligence adviser to the President he wanted to make, he wanted to add details about how we could strengthen the FDN. It is important to know at that 9 January meeting there was a key decision taking place.

That was the meeting, as I recall, where the decisions were going to be made about how to go for the next aid package. That is the \$100 million decision. That means what are we going to do with the

\$100 million of tasking me or somebody——

Mr. Rudman. The problem is there is a reference there—you make it so stark, either they get it or go down the drain. Maybe that is true, but the characterization, of course, when you read it in conjunction with other things we have heard makes one very nervous.

[Witness conferring with counsel.]

[C/CATF]. I don't know where these notes came from. I recall getting ready for that meeting, and I believe—

Mr. RUDMAN. They came from the Agency.

[C/CATF]. I beg your pardon. I can see they did. I really don't think from my direct knowledge the Director cooked intelligence on Central America. I think he presented it the way he saw it. He felt very strongly. I think the body of intelligence is there in the main to support what he had to say. I think the facts have spoken pretty well for themselves.

I am one of the key operational analysts, and I never heard the Director say anything about Central America I was personally un-

comfortable with.

Mr. RUDMAN. Thank you, [C/CATF].

I asked those questions in relation to what they state on their face, but beyond that I have a very uneasy feeling about the character of the intelligence the President of the United States is receiving on this entire matter. For instance, we have very disturbing evidence, public evidence, the President was told as part of the rationalization for selling arms to Iran and approaching those moderates over there that Iran was in imminent danger of losing the war when that flew in the face of every CIA, [deleted], and NSC evaluation, and I just wonder if this wasn't more of it. Mr. Chairman, we can go off the record, can't we, for 30 seconds?

Chairman Hamilton. Yes. Discussion off the record.

Chairman Hamilton. The chair recognizes Mr. McCollum for 10 minutes.

Mr. McCollum. We are about to wind down. I want to clarify a couple other things, going through testimony all day long and listening today. Exhibit 41, that is the testimony that you gave regarding the courier coming down to visit when you were with Mr. Casey in Central America just before he gave his testimony, and you said there at one point about the fact the courier mentioned there was a problem with a diversion.

[C/CATF]. I said there is a possiblity of the money amounts are

different.

Mr. McCollum. That is what I wanted to clarify, is that, was it [deleted] the courier?

[C/CATF]. Yes, he was.

Mr. McCollum. It is my understanding it was based on intelligence information that he had indicating that there was a difficul-

ty.

[C/CATF]. He had heard something along the way, and I am not clear on this, but he had heard something along the way that caused him to be concerned about a discrepancy and the amount of money going into one account and the amount that was available or could be accounted for or had been accounted for by the Agency.

He made a passing comment to me as we went through the-at

the airport.

Mr. McCollum. He didn't use the word "conferring"?

[Witness conferring with counsel.]

[C/CATF]. No, he didn't use the word "conferring".

Mr. McCollum. It was a remark to you not to Mr. Casey?

[C/CATF]. Yes, it was a private remark to me sort of at the mouth of a [deleted] as it was starting up, right as Casey was leav-

ing the area.

Mr. McCollum. I also want to put it in context. This is November of 1986, and it was in early October—we have had testimony in this committee—before Director Casey got the call from Mr. Furmark. As I recall, the Agency was concerned at that point in time with looking into all what Mr. Furmark may have said about the difference in the cost, too.

So from my prespective, I don't know from your knowledge you can concur, but from my perspective it could well be this remark by [deleted] was a followup on that information, that trail, not any-

thing new.

[C/CATF]. It is possible. I don't know, I didn't know the details and, as I said, if you only got a little glimpse, something like that doesn't jump out at you right away and it doesn't mean that much to you. That is the way the world is, you have to have clues before you can see something.

Mr. McCollum. Let me ask another area completely, drug trafficking questions. You were asked by Senator Heflin a minute ago about that. Is my understanding correct the only indication of any drug relations with the Contras or with any of our personnel at all was the question of a couple of people with Eden Pastora's group?

[C/CATF]. With regard to the Resistance forces; that is correct. It is not a couple people. It is a lot of people. And it is around Eden Pastora's group. I testified, at our request we went down to the intelligence committees and gave them a full briefing on that. We

first reported it in November of 1984 to the Justice Department and subsequently periodically thereafter and the body of intelligence is fairly complete on it.

Mr. McCollum. That is a primary reason we served our connec-

tion with Pastora or one of the factors?

[C/CATF]. One of about three or four.

Mr. McCollum. I want to make sure you would concur with the findings of our investigation or on this particular matter. In a memo to Chairman Hamilton dated July 23, of this year, Robert Bermingham said in his findings for us, "Our investigation has not developed any corroboration of media-exploited allegations that U.S. Government condoned drug trafficking by Contra leaders or Contra organizations or that Contra leaders or organizations did, in fact, take part in such activity."

Now, there is a distinction, I suppose, between our involvement and the involvement of Contra leaders and the involvement of Contras. Now, does that statement that Mr. Bermingham made to us, his

findings, comply with yours?

[C/CATF]. No, it does not. Would you read the last paragraph

again?

Mr. McCollum. It says "Our investigation has not developed any corroboration of media-exploited allegations that U.S. Government condoned drug trafficking by Contra leaders or Contra organizations or that Contra leaders or organizations did in fact take part

in such activity."

[C/CATF]. That's accurate. CIA officers, U.S. Government officials, to the best of my knowledge, which I think is probably pretty complete, were at no time a party to, directly or indirectly, knowingly, narcotics activities; Resistance forces with whom we are currently dealing are not known in any way to have been involved with them. We investigated those who were—one had to leave the movement. [Deleted]. I do not have all of the details because [deleted], but there was a lot of cocaine trafficking around Eden Pastora.

Mr. McCollum. Not around the FDN?

[C/CATF]. None around FDN, none around UNO, it was all [de-

leted] based.

Mr. McCollum. I would like, Mr. Chairman, for the record, since I could only read a part of this, put this memorandum by our investigator into the record.

Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. McCollum. Also on the same general area, looking into things that relate to the Contras in somewhat less than favorable ways, I would like to follow up on something that Mr. Rodino asked you about. He briefly asked you your knowledge of the Justice Department officials looking into a matter in March of 1986, regarding perhaps the violation of the Neutrality Act or arms shipments, or whatever, and you indicated in your answers that you knew very little about it, just maybe the fact they went down to Costa Rica to look into it. Are you familiar with a man by the name of Jesus Garcia and his allegations there were some arms that went down to allegedly try to work an assassination of Ambassador Tambs?

[C/CATF]. I am aware of that. At one time, I was very aware of the details of it. Those details have faded, but, yes, I am aware of it and was very aware at one point in time.

Mr. McCollum. Has there been, from your knowledge and involvement, any corroboration of this, or is this just an allegation

that stands out?

[C/CATF]. That's just made out of absolute whole cloth. I don't know why Jesus Garcia was getting information, particularly as he said CIA was behind it. That is the old theory, you do something and make someone respond to it. We didn't put much stock in that, and I still don't.

Mr. McCollum. Thank you very much on that point. I have one

other thing that troubles me I want to raise with you.

You testified this morning that you were concerned very much at the time that we had the incident that five lower-lever employees of the CIA were tagged with the blame. You said you believed, I think I am correct, you made a special effort to set up steps so if something happened with subordinates under your watch, under you, you and not your subordinates would take the responsibility, the beating from Congress, the heat, or whatever. I believe you said words to that effect this morning, am I correct?

[C/CATF]. Those were my words, and I would like to repeat them. I, working with Clair George, purposely structured the situation so the responsibility and liability accrued to me for whatever

happened.

Mr. McCollum. I am concerned, in light of that, in terms of the testimony we had from [Castillo], and I want to give you an opportunity to respond to an impression that I don't think I am the only one to have got during his testimony before us several weeks ago now.

I got the feeling that you and his other superiors didn't take any of the blame for what he did. I got the feeling that he was kind of left to hang out to dry, at least that is the impression that came across listening to his testimony at the time and putting all of the pieces together we had then with regard to his involvement. I don't think you have really clarified that too much for us today.

We have gone all around the circle on that. [Castillo] came along the line. We heard what he said. I think he is a very patriotic kind of guy, I personally liked him. But the idea he was out there alone is still an idea that is in my mind, and I would like to have your

thoughts on that.

[C/CATF]. [Castillo] was in the most difficult position of any of us, he was in the nutcracker as well as me, as well as others. My position was difficult, but not as difficult as his. He was in the

squeeze dealing with people and operations on the ground.

His perception of where he was, his authority, is different from mine. As I said before, I am not going to criticize [Castillo], I am not going to try to impeach what it is he had to say. I can tell you the facts. He was under instructions, if you will, from me, from CIA, to put order in the political structure in the South, and then as the laws changed, and you can see us kind of leaning into it in the traffic in the fall of 1985, and really getting into it after the law changed in December, December and January of 1986, [deleted].

He was also to do what he could within the context of the law to facilitate the operations of the Southern Front. He had the same guidance, the same framework as my [deleted], who had a better structure to deal with. [Castillo] made some decisions there on his own. Take the KL-43, that was his decision. The involvement in the airfield, that was his decision. I didn't know he was involved in that airfield until I read some of Oliver North's notes. I didn't know that much about it.

The direct contact with the private benefactors [Castillo] did under his own volition, and finally I think, as I read into the record very clearly, after it was I think pretty clear to [Castillo] after the May meetings he ought to get away from this thing, for some reason he came back into it in June of 1986, and he made those decisions himself based on the realities as he saw them at the

time.

What mental processes he went through to think I knew everything about them, had approved them and given him the famous

wink or nod, I don't really know.

Mr. McCollum. I don't have them in front of me to point out, but I remember distinctly, because I had the lead on our side on the minority part of the examination of [Castillo], there were a series of cables, messages, that went back that got no response. As I recall, he relied on the fact nobody, you or anyone else, said "Don't do this." He put them in there. It looks to me like he did. What do

you have to say on that?

[C/CATF]. I read into the record this morning some exchanges that we sent out and a KL-43 message between I think Colonel Dutton and General Secord which made it pretty clear [Castillo] understood he had to get away from that and that he got back involved with it. And I don't want to impeach [Castillo]. I don't want to say sort of that it is all his fault. He was in a difficult situation. I think that he is going through a little rationalization along the way and is seeing things through his glasses. I think if there is a difficulty organizationally with [Castillo], it's not so much what he did, it's that when confronted with multiple chances to tell his

story, he didn't tell it along the way quite completely.

I still am not at all sure, I think the organization has been—it's been very hard on [Castillo], but think it's also been pretty fair with him in terms that he is still there, and I think Judge Webster has been quite fair in his treatment of him, and I have a lot of

compassion for him.

Mr. McCollum. I am not going to beat a dead horse with it, but I want to point out he did send some cable traffic back after the fact when he had stopped the first time using this, and he used it for some drops and got no response back.

At any rate, we will leave it at that, but it seemed to me and still

does, despite his hope he not be there, he was left there to hang out. Chairman Hamilton. The chair would note for the record Mr. Stokes has to be on the floor with relation to a HHS appropriations bill, so he is not able to follow up as he had hoped. It may be, [C/CATF], he will submit some questions to you in writing, if that is all right, and the chair yields time to Senator Cohen.

Ms. McGinn. Mr. Chairman, if I may, with respect to the questions that have been asked this afternoon about the courier or individual that came down from CIA headquarters to Central America and had a discusion with [C/CATF] in November of 1986, I am not trying to add witnesses to the list here this afternoon, but I did want to inform you all that that person is [deleted], and he is accompanying Mr. George this afternoon or tomorrow for his testimony should you care to discuss directly with him that conversation.

Chairman Hamilton. Thank you very much, Counsel.

Senator Cohen is recognized.

Mr. Cohen. Just for one minute to followup on what Congressman McCollum was pursuing, it is something that has been troubling me a bit, because you indicated [Castillo] went over the edge, you indicated he was caught in the nutcracker, as was you. I want to refer back to his deposition. [Castillo] has testified that he raised the legality of the direct passage of information to private benefactors, that an alternative plan was discussed at [deleted] in May of 1986, with you and [C/LA]. The idea to train a UNO communicator was scrapped on orders from you because of a fear it might get into the papers and that he then continued to pass the information directly.

Now, I raise that—and that is his deposition, pages 72 to 76—I raise that in connection with the statement that you made today concerning the so-called CYA memo, as I believe Senator Nunn characterized it during the open sessions, and that is dated July 12, 1986. I am just going to read it quickly for the record, that portion.

1986. I am just going to read it quickly for the record, that portion. It says: "With the House passage of appropriated assistance to the Nicaraguan Resistance, we have taken a second look at the common link. To date we have maintained our distance as to private benefactors providing assistance to the Resistance and have briefed Congress we do not have any relationship with the PBs." You go on to say, "We don't want to get involved with them be-

You go on to say, "We don't want to get involved with them because it might be misconstrued." It was following that apparently that [Castillo] went out and continued the operation which he said, "I've got a problem, I am caught in a nutcracker," to use your phrase, "I am over the edge, I want to get back, here is a proposal." He sends memos and cables and gets back one saying, "I am sorry, we maintained our distance, and let's keep operating as we have been operating."

I think that is the context in which Senator Nunn says, "It looks to me like this is a CYA cable saying, '[Castillo], don't do it differently, continue doing what you are doing." I wonder if you would

clarify that?

[C/CATF]. I don't think that is at all what was meant. I think I read into the record this morning the KL-43 message, as I said, where [Castillo] was not going to be able to do this anymore. It was our intention, as I said, my compliance officer came to me and said, "If you do that, you're over the line, you can't do it." It was intended by me, once again, to either stop or to get that buffer in between you so that you are not right in the middle of it. And that was the purpose for that cable. That is what it is meant to have said. If there is ambiguity in it——

Mr. Cohen. He came up with a buffer?

[C/CATF]. No, the buffer, as I said before, was to put the Resistance leadership in the middle. He didn't need to talk to them, he could have passed anything he needed to pass through Resistance

leadership, and they could have passed it just as was done in the FDN.

For some reason, he didn't do it that way, maybe he didn't have trust and confidence in the structure. He made that decision, and that's the way he did it. I really was not aware he was doing that. Mr. COHEN. Thank you.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Sarbanes.

Mr. SARBANES. Could we identify for the record the people with the Agency who are here with [C/CATF] that have been on occasion counseling him?

[Deleted]. I'm the attorney that has been in the Central American Task Force providing legal guidance to [C/CATF] since June,

1985. Before that time, there was another attorney.

Mr. Rizzo. I'm John Rizzo, Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs. I have been trying to coordinate these matters with the committee.

Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, we will put into the

record exhibits [C/CATF]-1 through -47.

The chair requests permission to release [C/CATF] testimony after it has been declassified. Is there objection? If not, it is so ordered. Senator Inouve.

[C/CATF]. I have two statements I would like to make.

Chairman Hamilton. We will come to you in just a moment.

All right, [C/CATF]

[C/CATF]. I go back to a question that Senator Cohen asked me this morning, and I have run it through my head a couple of times during the luncheon break, and I want to put a couple of things on the record that came to my mind, because I want to leave here feeling as good as I can feel about this testimony. I have to collect my thoughts here because the thoughts have gone out of my head right now. These things flash into my mind and they flash out of my mind.

You asked me [deleted].

Mr. Cohen. I think it was Congressman Stokes who asked you

that question.

 $[C/\overline{CATF}]$. I didn't know who asked him—I've been trying to figure these things out and I don't want someone to say "aha"

later on. [Deleted].

And I said I don't want to get involved in those things, and I just stiffed him. And stiffed him hard, because that was not the kind of thing—it just smacked of [deleted] and everything that would bust congressional consensus that we had set up, and I stopped it and didn't pursue it at all. That popped into my mind after that question was asked, and I was racking my brain going through this catharsis to get it all out.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Rodino.

Mr. Rodino. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For clarification, [C/CATF], a while ago when I addressed a question to you concerning what was supposed to have been a conversation between Mr. Casey and the courier November 19th, I think we identified the date, and you stated in answer to my question that you didn't believe that it was Director Casey whom the courier addressed when he said there may be a problem on diversion, and as a matter of fact, my recollection is, and this was only a little bit ago, that you said that Director Casey was on the airplane and so

the conversation was with you rather than Mr. Casey.

Well, I'm going to refer you, [C/CATF], to your interview before the Tower Board, and that interview, in answer to a question from Senator Muskie, he says, "I take it from your opening statement that you had no knowledge at all of any diversion of funds from the Iran operation." And [C/CATF]: "No, I didn't know that even arms were being sold to Iran until it broke in the newspapers and I didn't know that there was even a question of diversion of funds until sometime—well, it was before it was announced. I forget when it was."

And then you go on, "The Director and I took a trip to Central America just before he came back to testify before the committees, to the Senate, and a courier came down who was coming down to meet with him with his briefs and such so he could do his work on the airplane and get ready for his testimony, and the courier said to him, you know, there may be a problem on diversion, and that was 8 or 10 days before it broke in the newspapers."

Now, according to this Tower Board interview, the conversation was between the courier, whom you identified as [deleted], and Di-

rector Casey. Now, what is correct—

[C/CATF]. That report is wrong. I never reviewed that transcript. It was to me in a private conversation, and I have no reason to think he ever raised it with the Director.

Mr. Rodino. Then the Tower Board interview is incorrect?

[C/CATF]. I never reviewed the transcript.

Mr. Rodino. I just read it to you.

[C/CATF]. Since it was done, I didn't review it. If I said that, I

misspoke myself because that is not the way it happened.

I have tried very hard to tell everything the way it happened. That is not the way it happened. It was a private conversation out on the side of the tarmac and it was not to the Director, and that is not correct.

If I said that, I misspoke myself, because what I have said today is the way I recall it happened, and I'm not covering up for the Director.

Mr. Rodino. Thank you very much. Chairman Hamilton. Senator Inouye.

Chairman Inouye. Mr. Chairman, I wish to advise the panel that yesterday I received a letter from Mr. Ghorbanifar, an 11-page letter, dated July 31, 1987, in which he responded to statements made by other witnesses. I wish to make this part of the record under the following conditions, that it not be released to the public unless and until Mr. Ghorbanifar is willing to respond to questions under oath or to submit this letter in affidavit form. I make that request.

Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, so ordered.

[C/CATF], I think we have now come to the end of your testimony. We appreciate very, very much your testimony. It has been most useful to the members of the committee, and you are excused, sir.

[C/CATF]. Thank you very much.

Chairman Hamilton. We will have a 10-minute recess while the books are prepared and the next witness is brought in.

(Brief recess.)

Chairman Hamilton. The Select Committees will come to order, and the witness now is Mr. Clair George.

Mr. George, would you stand, please, and raise your hand? [Witness sworn.]

TESTIMONY OF CLAIR GEORGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, CIA

Chairman Hamilton. I am advised that the House is voting so House Members will be absent for just a few minutes, and the chair recognizes Mr. Kerr to begin questions.

Mr. Kerr. Thank you, Mr Chairman. Mr. Kerr. Good afternoon, Mr. George.

Mr. George. Good afternoon.

Mr. Kerr. Let's start with a brief biographical sketch. You are Deputy Director for Operations of the CIA at the present time?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. You have held that position since July of 1984?

Mr. George. One July 1984.

Mr. Kerr. Your responsibilities with the CIA began in the mid-'50s, is that correct?

Mr. George. I joined CIA in October, 1955.

Mr. Kerr. During the course of your tenure with the Agency, you have served primarily in the Operations Directorate?

Mr. George. I have served exclusively in the Operations Direc-

torate. Of my 32 years, approximately 20 have been abroad.

[Deleted].

Mr. Kerr. And then you served as ADDO under Max Hugel, is that correct?

Mr. George. Yes. I was one of two ADDOs under Max Hugel, and when Mr. Hugel left, I was the one ADDO who was left.

Mr. Kerr. Then in 1983, you took on your responsibilities as Di-

rector of the Office of Legislative Liaison?

Mr. George. I served as Director of the Legislative Liaison, Congresional Affairs, from the spring of 1983, through the summer of 1984.

Mr. Kerr. And then in 1984, you took on your duties as DDO?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to the responsibilities of the DDO, can you give us a description of what that job entails?

Mr. George. I'm Director of Overseas Clandestine Operations for the U.S. Government for the Central Intelligence Agency reporting

directly to the Deputy Director and to the Director of CIA.

Mr. Kerr. Mr. George, there are several areas I want to go into with you. The first area I would like to touch on is an area relating to the Operations Directorate's contact with and knowledge of the activities of Mr. Ghorbanifar in the period 1985 until January of 1986, when the Finding came down and you all received a formal assignment to support the NSC.

Let me start with the knowledge the directorate had. The directorate, prior to 1985, had had dealings with Mr. Ghorbanifar; is that correct?

Mr. George. If I recall from recent study on this, counsel, we had our first contacts with Mr. Ghorbanifar in the year 1979, after he came out of Iran at the time the Shah fell.

Mr. Kerr. And those contacts had resulted in what is called a

burn notice that went out in July of 1984?

Mr. George. It was a long, complicated relationship. [Deleted].

We found him basically, to put it as simply as I can, uncontrolled. His information was unverifiable. In many cases we could prove it was not true and we put out, using our jargon correctly, and I'm sorry—1983, a burn notice, meaning, in our language, we send a notice around the world that the individual that we are speaking about should not be dealt with because he's dishonest and

Mr. Kerr. I believe the date of that first notice was approximately July 25, 1984. That kind of a notice is not an everyday occurrence, I take it?

Mr. George. It is a very rare occurrence. Our business is to deal with a very strange variety of people. If we only served and dealt with the honest and fair, we would be out of business fairly fast. You have to work at it pretty hard, counsel, to get a burn notice out of the Operations Directorate at the CIA.

Mr. Kerr. And one of the purposes of a burn notice is essentially to warn off others that the person that is the subject of the burn

notice can cause them difficulty?

Mr. George. Yes, [deleted]. I don't know, I'm sure the record will show whether we told others, but what we do is we send a telegram, cables [deleted] abroad, and we say if a man named Ghorbanifar strolls in, here is his size, weight, coloring and so on, and he's a liar.

Mr. Kerr. That also gets circulated through the U.S. Govern-

ment?

Mr. George. I can't answer that. I assume we would certainly share it with our friends in the State Department and others in the foreign affairs world.

Mr. Kerr. There is a reference in the Agency [deleted] file to a repeat of the burn notice that occurred in March, 1985. Are you fa-

miliar with that event?

Mr. George. A second burn notice?

Mr. Kerr. Yes.

Mr. George. I'm not, counsel.

Mr. Kerr. Let me take you to the summer of 1985, and essentially I'm going to be looking at documents in this area that are found at exhibits 22 through 58, and there's another exhibit at 76 touch-

ing on some of these matters.

Let me take you to the summer of 1985, and set the stage. We have as exhibit 22, an Agency document that reflects a contact of Director Casey by John Shaheen, who is a former client of Director Casey's and friend and business associate, and Mr. Shaheen in that memorandum relates a contact he had from Cyrus Hashemi, an Iranian expatriate who was at that time a fugitive from U.S. indictment. Shaheen relates that the Iranians may be prepared to arrange for the release of hostages and Mr. Hashemi is prepared to intervene in those matters if he gets a nolle prosequi from his

pending prosecution.

Can you tell me, using that as a starting point, what the Operations Directorate was doing in the June, July, August, 1985, period with regard to this Shaheen contact and the Hashemi connection as it related back to Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. Yes. John Shaheen was described to me as a personal business acquaintance of Director Casey from New York City.

[Deleted].

Now, to this issue, Shaheen, if I understand it and I've reviewed it, told Bill Casey that his friend or acquaintance, Mr. Cyrus Hashemi, whom I don't know of, had fled the country after an indictment for, if I understand, arms sales—correct me if I'm wrong on that. Mr. Hashemi had a record of being on the edge of the law, the international arms market.

All that aside, Mr. Hashemi said that he could produce [deleted], and please correct me if I'm wrong, two very significant Iranian officials who could help release the hostages. This is at a moment, and I'm sure we will get into this as time goes by, and I think all of you heard me say and other of my colleagues, that within the limits of the law, I try not to leave any stone unturned to look for any hostage.

In a nutshell, Mr. Hashemi said if he could produce some Iranians who could in turn release the hostages would the United States of

America give him a nolle prosequi.

We went to the State Department and we went to the Department of Justice and we asked both of those agencies what they might know about Mr. Hashemi, what was the charge, what was the indictment, and felt them out on what their feeling would be if there were to be an individual under indictment for illegal arms activity who could actually get the American hostages out of Beirut. There is a series of papers on our discussions with these people, and there was an agreement informally, if Mr. Hashemi did bring [deleted] I guess senior Iranian officials who in turn would be able to help us release the hostages, the Department of Justice, the Department of State would consider such a possibility.

Three things happened. The first thing happened, which happens in our business so often, is that he did not produce the Iranians, they never showed up, so it was never a question of what can we do

about them.

Secondly, we found out at some point, counsel, and I don't know when, and I couldn't find, I was told this earlier and I couldn't find the paper and maybe you have it here, that the famous Iranians he was to bring to [deleted] who were to release the hostages were none other than Mr. Ghorbanifar and [deleted] who became only too famous in the fall. The entire affair drifted off, and if I recall correctly, there was some contact with Mr. Hashemi's American lawyer, Mr. Elliott Richardson, who had made several contacts with the CIA. We told him to get in touch with the Department of Justice and I believe that sometime in 1986, this affair, having died out, Mr. Hashemi died.

Mr. Kerr. Let me just follow up a couple things with you. The assignment of following up was given at the outset to [deleted], is that correct?

Mr. George. That's correct.

Mr. Kerr. [Deleted] role at that time was what?

Mr. George. In early, I don't have the dates correct and exact, but in early 1985, yes, all through 1985, [deleted] was the Deputy Director of my Near East Division which is the Geographic Operating Division that handles the Near East area and was as such the immediate senior supervisor of the hostage problem.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to who gave [deleted] his assignment, would that have come by the way of [deleted], the Director—

Mr. George. Well, this was one of these affairs, which is not unusual in our agency and has gone back to when I joined under Allen Dulles, a variety of supervisors are in touch with a variety of men down the ladder, we are as you all know a rather busy organization and there is not a sort of bureaucratic chain of events. This was a Bill Casey contact. Whether he called [deleted] or he called me I cannot remember, but I'm sure at some point we probably put Casey in touch with [deleted], and so all of us would have been involved in it.

Mr. Kerr. There are a series of memoranda that we have as the exhibit here from [deleted]. Would you have been contemporane-

ously reviewing those memoranda?

Mr. George. Those memoranda if they are prepared by [deleted] and are routed, we mean sent through the bureaucratic mechanism to the Director of Central Intelligence, would normally go through me.

Mr. Kerr. So you would have been in all likelihood conversant with this matter as it was going on, is that correct?

Mr. George. Yes.

To add a point here, and I found this on several of my depositions with others and with you, just because a paper went through my office which hundreds do a day, I may not know as much about it as I should. I'm not apologizing. It's just the problems of paperwork.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to Director Casey and what Director Casey was told, to your knowledge was Director Casey advised of

the Agency's past history of Mr. Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. Ghorbanifar really wasn't the issue. The issue was Hashemi. If Hashemi would have produced Ghorbanifar and Ghorbanifar would have produced all of the hostages, it probably would have been one of the snappiest little operations we ever ran. The truth is he never produced Mr. Ghorbanifar so the issue of us judging Ghorbanifar, counsel, was certainly, never brought up.

The first thing was Hashemi produce some, excuse me, produce some Iranian bodies. Let's see what you have got. If he had shown up with Ghorbanifar I think probably we would have said—we have moved, see, we would have moved this thing, even with the burn notice, we might say we don't believe a word you say but please

release the hostages. But I'm guessing now.

Mr. Kerr. Let me try to focus your recollection. The documents indicate that Hashemi was given the word while [deleted] would meet with the Iranians they didn't want to meet only with Ghor-

banifar, they wanted to have [deleted] present as well. That suggests——

Mr. George. That would suggest—if Ghorbanifar would have come alone someone would have said, hey, fellow, come on, let's produce some real people.

Mr. Kerr. What I'm driving at, I'm trying to get a sense of what his subordinates would have told Director Casey. Would they have

advised Director Casey---

Mr. George. In the summer of 1985, if we would have the paper that said Manucher Ghorbanifar was involved in anything, and it was of such interest that the Director of Central Intelligence was involved in it, I would have assured him of the knowledge that he was dealing with a person with whom we had a burn notice. That

is a critical decision for us in dealing with foreigners.

Mr. Kerr. If you want to follow the instruction on what was to be done with Ghorbanifar as opposed to [deleted] is alluded to in exhibit 26. In terms of pursuing the chronology a bit further, apparently there are additional contacts with Mr. Richardson in mid-October—excuse me, mid-August, August 16, 1985, suggesting that the matter was continuing into the early fall. Do you have a recollection based on your review of this matter on when you all gave up so to speak on the Hashemi initiative?

Mr. George. I reviewed these very briefly. It was my belief that Mr. Richardson had obtained [deleted] name, which was a mistake, but such things happen, Mr. Richardson was calling [deleted] on behalf of Hashemi and we decided Hashemi had nothing to sell. It is merely Mr. Richardson is a prominent American, we are not going to hang up in his ear. It was more the ball is in your client's

court is something I believe I read.

Mr. Kerr. Do you have any knowledge today of the extent to which Director Casey took information about this approach to the National Security Adviser?

Mr. George. I do not.

Mr. Kerr. So you do not know for example if Mr. McFarlane even knew these discussions were going on in June, July, August 1985?

Mr. George. Knowing-I don't, but knowing Bill Casey, I would

think he might have.

Mr. Kerr. Taking that a step further, given your familiarity with Director Casey's approach, is it likely that Casey would have advised McFarlane of the concerns that the Agency had for Mr. Manucher Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. Kerr. We have——

Mr. George. If all those things had happened.

Mr. KERR. Yes, sir, I understand.

One point of interest is Secretary Shultz' recollection, as he has previously testified to, that he knew about Manucher Ghorbanifar and the Agency's concerns about Ghorbanifar in July of 1985. So that was something that would have been shared by CIA with State at the time?

Mr. George. I know we shared it with State because Secretary Armacost—with whom I do a great deal of business, is sort of my normal contact at State Department, at some point last fall, in

November of 1986, as this thing unwound, Mike said, hey, give me a copy of that burn notice I know is out on Ghorbanifar. When Mike first learned that I don't know, but, yes, I would think if there was an operation that involved Manucher Ghorbanifar and dealt with the hostages, we would have told Casey and Casey, if he were to urge higher ups, then he or his equals would have told them.

Mr. Kerr. Let me pursue the thought a bit further. Do you have any recall or knowledge from another source that the Agency was made privy to the conversations Mr. Ledeen was having in the

period of July, August, 1985, with Manucher Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. I cannot speak for Mr. Casey and I cannot speak for the Deputy Director, Mr. McMahon. But in my directorate there

was no one I knew who knew anything about that.

Mr. Kerr. So in terms of your understanding of what was going on in your directorate, [deleted] was not apprised there were discussions going on by other American officials with Manucher Ghor-

banifar during the same period of time?

Mr. George. Well, you will take me there, but let me put it, frame it as I see it. Ghorbanifar was the agent of Israel. It was the Government of Israel that said, we have got one hot cookie here that can help us make contacts with Iran, release the hostages. Michael Ledeen, and I think as we walk through Ghorbanifar, seems to be playing a variety of roles in this. But back to your question, and I'm sure we'll get through all of this, in the summer of 1985, when Cyrus Hashemi had his scheme which we know involved Ghorbanifar, I cannot believe anyone in my directorate, knew about the Ledeen-Israel-Ghorbanifar connection.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to what you did know during that period of time, it appears from the documents that we have that there was an effort to try to identify [deleted] and to track his travel going through September of 1985, from the documents that we

have.

Mr. George. There was a document that I have seen somewhere in which we have asked [deleted], to track [deleted] travels. I do not know why.

Mr. Kerr. I think you are referring to exhibit 33, which is a

cable to [deleted].

Mr. George. I have asked and I will—because there is a reference there as you see, [deleted]. Why did we ask that, and I would

like that checked out, please. I've already asked.

Mr. Kerr. But in terms of what the Agency was doing, this document certainly indicates that in this period of time the Operations Directorate was, A, keeping an eye on Hashemi and Ghorbanifar by virtue of the conversations in August and now, B, by virtue of this cable keeping track of the travel of [deleted] during this period.

Mr. George. For some reason which we certainly will be able to

trace down when we trace back the reference on these cables.

Mr. Kerr. Now, we know from other testimony and documents that have been put before the committee that the Israeli shipment of TOW missiles, the first shipment of TOW missiles occurred the last of August, the first of September and that there was then a subsequent shipment of 408 TOW missiles in mid-September of 1985.

Do you recall-

Mr. George. Excuse me. Two Israeli shipments in September?

Mr. Kerr. One begins on August 30, but, yes-

Mr. GEORGE. Two different loads? I should know that but I don't.

Mr. KERR. In terms of what you all know we have received information from [deleted] there was following of cable traffic that allowed you to at least have a suspicion.

Mr. George. There were newspaper reports in the Israeli press.

A plane had crash landed at the Jerusalem airport. [Deleted]. There were signs, blips in the air in the fall of 1985 something

was going on between Israel and Iran.

Mr. Kerr. If I understand your testimony, in terms of knowing of a relationship between Manucher Ghorbanifar, [deleted] and that knowledge you did not have that?

Mr. George. No, nor do I believe anyone in my directorate would

have had that.

Mr. Kerr. Focusing on the September period, you are familiar with Mr. Allen's testimony he received an assignment he places about September 9, another document places it September 12, to begin [deleted] for Colonel North?

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. Kerr. He also indicated that you would have been a recipi-

ent of that material. Do you recall when you received it?

Mr. George. I disagree with Mr. Allen. I'm sure he may believe that he sent it to me. I think throughout this entire affair Mr. Allen, who was National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism, who was not under my direction, forgive me for saying it again, the intelligence officer on counterterrorism reports directly, in theory, to the Director. In fact, I'm told Mr. Allen was told by Colonel North at the time this took place he was not to share this material with members of the Operations Directorate.

Mr. Kerr. And in terms of having a recollection, you yourself

having seen [deleted] in this period?

Mr. George. I could have. My [deleted] problem is that I get it confused with a great series of [deleted] that came through after the Finding when we were just finding with the endless [deleted] Ghorbanifar [deleted]. I have a belief, counsel, that in the fall of 1985, I saw some type [deleted]. What, I don't know.

Mr. Kerr. Would you place that later than September of 1985?

Mr. George. I cannot, sir.

Mr. Kerr. Do you have any recollection of [deleted] material in the fall of 1985 being shared with the Near East Division, [deleted] and [deleted]?

Mr. GEORGE. No. I have again confidence they would have told

Mr. Kerr. With regard to what it was that you knew at that time and the role Mr. Allen played, let me focus on that for just a moment. With regard to collecting [deleted] in the Operations Directorate, that is not something I would assume is customarily done by an NIO?

Mr. George. [Deleted] in its generic sense is handled by Directorate of Intelligence. [Deleted]. It would not be totally out of the ordinary for a national intelligence officer to be charged to liaise [delet-

ed].

Mr. Kerr. Let me pursue the thought a bit further. Can you give me an understanding, if you have one, of why it was that Colonel North in September of 1985, looked to NIO Allen for this type of assistance as opposed to going through the Agency to its Operations Directorate and asking you all to do that?

Mr. George. He didn't want us to know about it.

Mr. Kerr. Do you have any understanding today as to why he didn't want you to know about it?

Mr. George. I think they were going to run an operation on

their own.

Mr. Kerr. When you use the term "they," you are referring to the NSC?

Mr. George. I guess so. I would say that. But it is based on an

awful lot of television and newspapers over the last 3 months.

Mr. Kerr. Let me focus on Director Casey for a moment. Mr. Allen's testimony is while he didn't tell Director Casey the day he got the assignment he did have a session with Director Casey within the matter of a day or two after the assignment to go over [deleted]. Did Director Casey apprise you in September of 1985, that Mr. Allen was engaged in this kind of [deleted] effort [deleted]?

Mr. George. No. he did not.

Mr. Kerr. When did you learn, if you can recall, that Mr. Allen

was engaged in this type of task?

Mr. George. The unpeeling of the onion, of the relationships, the complicated relationships that are involved in the Iranian caper came in degrees and degrees and degrees, and we will discuss them I'm sure, the famous flight, when did we know arms were aboard it, when Michael Ledeen approached us independently of the National Security Council in promoting Mr. Ghorbanifar; my first recollection of [deleted] that was suddenly being made available to me with great regularity, and I knew the purpose, although I will testify I didn't follow it because there was so damn much of it I couldn't, was after the Finding. The Finding formalized my participation in it.

Mr. Kerr. This strikes me as something of an incongruity here that I wanted to explore with you. The Director turned to the Operations Directorate when he had a Hashemi problem in the fall of 1985. The Director apparently turned to Mr. Allen on a project Colonel North was working on without telling the Operations Directorate in the fall of 1985, again ultimately as we now know relating to Mr. Ghorbanifar. Was there anything that occurred with regard to the way you all handled the Hashemi matter that left a bad taste or problems between you all and the Director, to your

knowledge?

Mr. George. The issue is we never had a fighting chance on the Ghorbanifar—I'm jumping to my conclusion. We never had a fighting chance on Ghorbanifar. It wasn't the Hashemi case or it wasn't Ledeen indeed sort of saying this guy is really sensational, he can

get a lot of terrorism information.

Whether Casey knew it or not, our reaction was going to be this won't work, but the White House was already working it. In other words, we never played with a full deck. I'm running around saying, hey, here is my burn notice, this guy is a loser, and, Christ,

he is working with the Government of Israel, he has already arranged a flight, he has helped, I assume, I'm sure you know, he had arranged the November flight or was an intermediary and I'm running around saying we don't want to work with him when two major countries, the Government of Israel, a close ally and ourselves are still working with him. It's sort of would you please get out of the way. They never dealt us a whole deck.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to Colonel North, I am going to leave him aside for the moment, but with regard to Director Casey, again, trying to focus in on what happened, is there anything that you know of in terms of Director Casey's perception of the Operations Directorate that allowed him to cause this to happen, to have you all marching in one direction while Colonel North on a major initi-

ative is marching in another?

Mr. George. Well, you have to tell me in your report at what point and did Director Casey, is it really true, decide we need something besides the Operations Directorate to run covert operations? And I might say to you, counsel, and to the good members that this is not the first administration and will not be the last that becomes totally frustrated with its spy service. You want a spy service that produces regularly and we don't. Life is tough. And so at what point a Director and we saw a bit of it in the previous administration and the administration before that, and God knows, the administration before that, I am going to set up an operation and I am going to run it around these bureaucrats.

Mr. Kerr. Did you yourself have a perception in the fall of 1985 that Director Casey was prepared to wire around the Operations

Directorate?

Mr. George. Not really. I know that now, but, no, my—again, I know this is the hearing, and this is the issue, and it is Iran and Contras, which I am sure we will discuss. May I say forgive me, I have [deleted] Aniericans that work for me, I have [deleted] foreign nationals who support our intelligence service abroad, I have people in [deleted] posts outside the continental United States and we send back and forth any month, God knows most of it is trivia, [deleted] telegrams. So this was not my whole world, and if he would have cut me out of a corner of something I would have been so busy doing 20 other things I am not sure I would have noted it.

Mr. Kerr. That may underscore the point, but I would point out to you we have a State Department cable which says [deleted] was quite negative on the Hashemi initiative. I was curious whether or not you had received as of the fall of 1985, any feedback from the Director that suggested he thought you all had been less than ag-

gressive?

Mr. George. No, not at all. In fact, to the day I last saw Bill Casey and I had gone into the hospital last fall and many days later Bill Casey went in the hospital, let me assure all of you that he was a warm colleague of mine, I always believed him to be fair, and he was the Director and if he made certain operational decisions, he made them.

But personally, although he was not an intimate, personal friend,

never at all, he was always good to me.

Mr. Kerr. All right. With regard to what is going on during that period of time, we now know Mr. Ghorbanifar came to the United

States on or about October 8, 1985, and at that time the only American official with whom he met apparently was Michael Ledeen, and you have as exhibit 35 a copy of Charles Allen's memorandum from October 7, 1985, in which Mr. Allen asks for [deleted] that is blocked out but he goes by Ashgari, who we now know to be Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Let me set the stage by asking whether or not the Operations Directorate knew during the first week of October 1985, that Manucher Ghorbanifar was in Washington, DC in a hotel and ultimately in the Executive Office Building meeting with American officials.

Mr. GEORGE. No, we did not.

Mr. Kerr. Mr. Allen has testified that when he sent up this memorandum, [deleted], he didn't know who Ashgari was. He has testified he didn't know Ashgari's identity until early December 1985.

Do you have any knowledge of Mr. Allen on behalf of himself or on behalf of the National Security Council asking for an identifier on either Ashgari or Ghorbanifar in the fall of 1985?

Mr. George. I do not, sir.

Mr. Kerr. Mr. Allen has lamented in his deposition testimony that he did not know who Ashgari was because that made it more difficult for him to do [deleted] work that he was doing. Do you have knowledge today of the compartmenting of Charlie Allen by Colonel North, keeping some of this information from him by Colonel North?

Mr. George. You are going to have to tell me again. Colonel North telling Charlie Allen?

Mr. Kerr. Less that complete information, not telling him, for example, who Ashgari was.

Mr. George. I can't speak to that relationship at all.

Mr. Kerr. You never had occasion to learn in 1986 that Colonel North wanted to keep some information away from Mr. Allen, is that correct?

Mr. George. I couldn't fairly answer that. Once you get after that Finding it complicates things a bit. I don't know that. No, I don't ever remember Colonel North in my knowledge saying, don't tell this to Charlie Allen.

Mr. Kerr. I think I understand you to be saying that you did not know in early October of 1985, that Michael Ledeen was playing any role with Mr. Ghorbanifar at that time?

Mr. GEORGE. I did not.

Mr. Kerr. The first occasion when the Operations Directorate would have had to learn that Mr. Ledeen was in fact involved with Mr. Ghorbanifar would have been in December of 1985?

Mr. George. Yes, I was puzzled at that because the documents I have been able to get my hands on indicate then a sudden tremendous—everybody in the whole directorate is being wooed and wined by Mr. Ledeen. But I do not know of anyone—I mean people could have certainly known him socially, but I do not know of anybody doing business with him.

Mr. Kerr. I am driving at the informational exchange between the Agency and Ledeen that did not occur to the best of your recollection until late November, early December of 1985, would that be correct?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. The Agency did become involved with tracking Mr. Ghorbanifar in late October of 1985. We have a series of cables beginning at approximately exhibit 36, [deleted]. We also have a diary entry that suggests that you had talked to Colonel North?

Mr. George. I did talk to Colonel North.

Mr. KERR. Can you focus on that episode and tell me your best

recollection of what transpired?

Mr. George. I talked regularly to him on the telephone and he said would it be possible for the Operations Directorate on behalf of the NSC to [deleted]. I said of course. [Deleted].

Mr. Kerr. Using that as a focal point, did Colonel North tell you

why he wanted [deleted]?

Mr. George. He talked to me and that is a question, since I have been reminded of this incident, what he told me—sure in hell didn't say we are shipping arms to Iran, [deleted]. I don't recall what he told me. I suffer the bureaucrat's disease that when people call me and say, I am calling from the White House for the National Security Council on behalf of the National Security Adviser, I am inclined to "snap to." I do not remember why he told me.

Mr. Kerr. In terms of using that as a way of focusing your recollection, you do not believe that you knew at that time of the arms

transactions that the Israelis were engaged in?

Mr. George. I did not. Mr. Kerr. [Deleted]? Mr. George. [Deleted].

Mr. Kerr. [Deleted], what instruction, if any, was given to your agents to apprise Colonel North of the nature of the people with whom he apparently was dealing; to tell him about the burn notice?

Mr. George. About the burn notice—I am told by Mr. Cave that some time after [deleted], but that would not be until 1986, because when we brought George back—[deleted]—he was on contract when we brought him into the Iranian affair—he has told me [deleted] one of them was Ghorbanifar. [Deleted]. I can't remember when anybody would have told Colonel North that this is Manucher Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Kerr. [Deleted] has testified that he is the one that hand-carried [deleted] over to Colonel North. Do you have any knowledge of exchange between [deleted] and North about who Manucher Ghorbanifar was and what his prior relationship was with the Agency?

Mr. George. I do not.

Mr. Kerr. You do not recall talking with Colonel North about who Manucher Ghorbanifar was at that time; is that right? You didn't have a chat with Colonel North on the nature of Manucher Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. Colonel North told me something about what the sam hill he thought he was doing and I apologize, I can't remember. I cannot believe he said I am dealing with Mr. Ghorbanifar and [deleted].

Mr. Kerr. I assume that had you known that you would have apprised Colonel North of the perspective of the Operations Director-

ate on Manucher Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. Whatever else I did throughout this affair, when the name Manucher Ghorbanifar was put together with who he was, meaning I suddenly realized he was a man with a burn notice, I am afraid I made a bit of a fool of myself telling everybody that we should stay away from him. I would not have excluded Colonel North from that piece of advice.

Mr. Kerr. You don't have a perception today though as to whether or not North knew as of October 1985, of the Agency's

prior bad relationship with Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. I do not know.

Mr. Kerr. Mr. Ledeen was meeting in Switzerland at approximately this time, 27th or 28th October, with certain Iranians and has attributed [deleted] to information that he provided to Colonel North as a result of that meeting in Switzerland. Did you have any knowledge at that time of Michael Ledeen playing a role with the Iranians on the initiative?

Mr. George. I did not.

Mr. Kerr. So Colonel North, to the best of your recollection when you talked to him about this matter, did not mention that Ledeen was doing anything on this matter?

Mr. George. I don't remember Colonel North discussing any-

thing with me except at a later period in time complaining.

Mr. Kerr. Moving ahead into November, there is an incident that we have all heard about that occurred when the Agency was asked to provide some air support to Colonel North. Let me ask you to focus on that. We are now the 22d, 23d, 24th of November, 1985. Your testimony usually picks up on that Monday, the 25th,

but bring us into focus on when you learned of this incident.

Mr. George. I left Washington for a weekend that weekend. I left Thursday morning and came back Sunday afternoon. I went into the office on Monday morning and John McMahon was in my deputy's office, my deputy was Ed Juchniewicz and John McMahon was visibly and outspokenly disturbed. I don't remember how I put it all together, but I finally got the following picture. Over that weekend, Colonel North had called the Chief of my European Division and said that it was critical to arrange for an Israeli plane to land [deleted]. We had sent cables to [deleted], and [deleted]. This we now know was General Secord. At the time, our [deleted] stayed up all night—it was a charge, there was great confusion going to a foreign government at night and getting special permission for a plane from Israel to land is not easy, no matter who you are. John McMahon said to me that Monday morning—I heard him say to Ed Juchniewicz, and I do remember this—not only did you send the cables, but you let the goddamned airplane go to Tehran. Now we know the story I am telling. I put a cable package—John said get me those damned cables—and I put a cable package together with him, my secretary and I, and delivered it to him, I am sure that very day.

Mr. Kerr. Let me take you back. You would not have been in

the office that weekend, correct?

Mr. George. I was in the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Kerr. And no one contacted you in the Hilton Hotel in Pittsburgh about this matter?

Mr. George. No.

Mr. Kerr. In terms of what happened Monday morning, you come in and it becomes apparent to you that Mr. McMahon is disturbed?

Mr. George. As William Safire said that was the famous

through-the-overhead weekend.

Mr. Kerr. Did you, as part of the task that you were given at

that point, have a meeting with Mr. Clarridge?

Mr. George. I talked to Dewey several times during that day. I said to Dewey, "Bring me the damned cables," I said to my secretary, "Dig up what we have here, get me a package of these things. I've got to get them to McMahon." I am sure I talked to Dewey more than once.

Mr. Kerr. Do you recall having a meeting of Clarridge and your-

self with Mr. McMahon that day?

Mr. George. I don't, but we could have certainly.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to the cable trafffic, my assumption is that you tried to get as complete a collection of cables as you could?

Mr. George. It was simple. There were cables sent out from the European Division to [deleted] dealing with a flight that was going to originate in Israel and whether I knew whether it was going to Tehran or not, I certainly learned quickly, so it is not a complicated problem to find that traffic and put it together. There is not that much of it.

Mr. KERR. Did it come to your attention from the numbers or

otherwise that there were cables in the sequence missing?

Mr. George. No, sir.

Mr. KERR. You had your staff do that?

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. KERR. No one told you there was a cable missing?

Mr. George. Among us, it would be my secretary who would say, "All right, Clair, we have this little pile of things here in a manila envelope, this is it." She wouldn't, nor would I have ever expected her to say, "[deleted] is not there," and so there was no, to me, that Monday any such discussion.

Mr. Kerr. So to the best of your knowledge, you didn't have an

awareness of a missing cable?

Mr. George. I did not that day.

Mr. Kerr. And until the recent events occurred, did it come to your attention that there were [deleted] cables missing at that time?

Mr. George. No. I can't remember, so many things have been going on in the last few months, but, no, there never was an issue that there was a cable missing.

Mr. KERR. In terms of the cables, they were coming in on the pri-

vacy channel?

Mr. George. They were coming in on what we call a privacy channel, a variety of links we have established. I have one, the Director has one, the Deputy Director has one, and each of my Geo-

graphic Division Chiefs had one. The primary purpose of this is to handle extremely sensitive personnel matters, of which we have

many, as people have serious problems abroad.

The way it works is, in this case, it would be Mr. Clarridge's privacy channel in Europe. I get a copy of every privacy channel sent out of the Directorate. You cannot communicate with your man overseas without my receiving a copy of it in the privacy channel.

Therefore, if the cable—I have discussed this on many occasions—if the cable went in and out of the privacy channel, I should have received a copy. The only person who can cable in and out of the building without any other distribution, other than the Office of Communications, is the Director himself.

Mr. Kerr. You are familiar with the testimony given by [delet-

ed].

Mr. George. Very well, and a very close friend for 30 years. I have great faith in [deleted] and consider him an outstanding officer.

Mr. Kerr. You are aware that [deleted] has testified that he sent

two cables after a meeting with Mr. Copp?

Mr. George. I saw [deleted] when he came back to testify and talked to [deleted] for a long time, and [deleted] said he and Dick Secord, known to him I guess only as Copp, stood in the parking lot outside of Copp's hotel in [deleted], and Copp said, "Do you know what is going on here?" And poor [deleted] had been up for 72 hours trying to get [deleted] to let an Israeli plane land, and he said, "Excuse me, sir, I don't." [Deleted] reports that the good General Secord said we are trading missiles for hostages.

Mr. Kerr. As I understand, you have told me previously, I take it, it continues to be your recollection that you did not see such a

rable?

Mr. George. I promise you, no matter how many cables we send in and out over a month, that one would have grabbed me.

Mr. Kerr. You are aware, are you not, that the Agency has been

unable to find a [deleted] cable that there is a number for?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. KERR. Do you know of any explanation for what happened to

that missing cable?

Mr. George. I suppose three times in the last 20 years I have seen a cable eaten alive by the relay station in [deleted]. The odds are so high, I am afraid we would be foolish to think that happened. A cable could have been sent in a nonprivacy channel. [Deleted] swears the traffic was in privacy channel, he could have put a slug, a signal at the top of the cable which would have sent it somewhere else, all copies then to a single person. The issue which I have discussed with your staff and with the staff of the Independent Counsel—I would find it impossible unless there is a cabal of people engaged in a coverup to sort of send a cable like that, somehow get all the copies of it and make it disappear.

Mr. Kreen. And that is because there are a number of people that

are supposed to get copies?

Mr. GEOMGE. I am the Office of Protection, and it is not just me. I have a deputy, there are four secretaries, and I have my own registry, mail room in our language, and these things are seen. Even I

couldn't fast enough whip up a cable like that and pick up all the

copies and make sure no one had seen it.

Mr. Kerr. In terms of the work that was done to collect the cables on that famous Monday morning of November 25th, were

you relying on cables that were already in your office———

Mr. George. I think we went to Clarridge and said, Dewey, bring us over the weekend cable traffic, please, on this issue with Colonel North. We would almost certainly have depended on that as our record, because other than my own privacy channel, my office, just because of paper flow, is not an office of record. So I would have had those cables but I never can swear that I have everybody's privacy channels.

Mr. Kerr. It is within the realm of possibility that Mr. Clarridge, who was working that weekend, could have actually taken delivery

of the cable traffic as it arrived.

Mr. George. He cannot get his hands on the copies that are coming to my office.

Mr. Kerr. He cannot, as a matter of policy?

Mr. George. He cannot. The policy is that if you are working the privacy channel, which again is mostly about tragedies of personal lives abroad, you cannot take my copies away from me. The only channels that I cannot see is a slip-up—in terms of my access to sensitive CIA international cable traffic, the only two people who can outdeal me are the Director and the Deputy Director, as it should be.

Mr. Kerr. Is there any logging system in your office that would show the arrival by number or otherwise of cables?

Mr. George. I don't know. No.

Mr. Kerr. So there is no document——

Mr. George. I cannot say to you, I tell you on this weekend this cable did or didn't come in. There are great piles of them, counsel.

Mr. Kerr. Let me shift gears for a moment-

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Kerr, is this a good place to take a break?

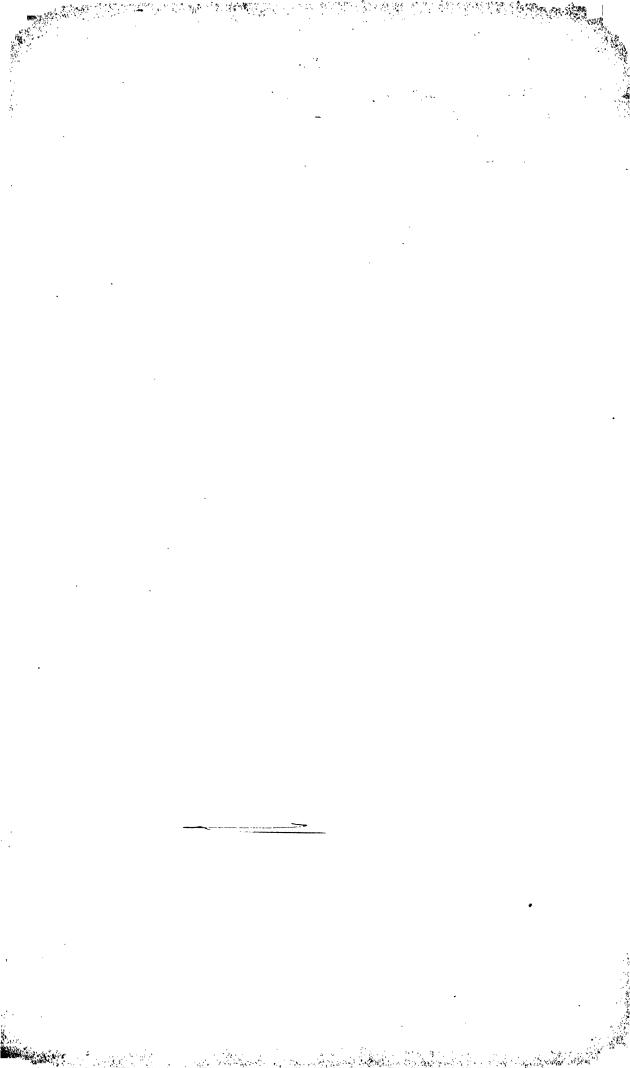
Mr. KERR. Certainly.

Chairman Hamilton. Then we will take a recess at this point and return tomorrow morning if we may, Mr. George.

Mr. George. Mr. Chairman, it would be my pleasure.

Chairman Hamilton. At 9:00 o'clock. Until then, this hearing will stand in recess.

[Whereupon, at 6:05 p.m. the Select Committees recessed; to reconvene the following day at 9:00 a.m.]



JOINT HEARINGS ON THE IRAN-CONTRA INVESTIGATION

Continued Testimony of Clair George

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 1987

House Select Committee To Investigate COVERT ARMS TRANSACTIONS WITH IRAN

SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SECRET MILITARY Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition, Washington, DC.

The Select Committees met, pursuant to call, at 9:00 a.m. in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lee H. Hamilton (chairman of the House Select Committee) and Hon. Daniel K. Inouye (chairman of the Senate Select Committee) presiding.

Chairman Hamilton. The Select Committees will come to order.

Good morning, Mr. George.

CONTINUED TESTIMONY OF CLAIR GEORGE, FROM AUGUST 5

Mr. George. Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. We will begin with a continuation of questioning by Mr. Kerr. Mr. Kerr.

Mr. Kerr. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning, Mr. George.

Mr. George. Good morning, counsel.

Mr. Kerr. Mr. George, I would like to conclude a few questions on the November 1985 HAWK shipments.

Mr. George. Please.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to events that you were involved in that Monday when you came back.

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. KERR. If you would look at exhibit 43 at page Q-1353, there is an excerpt from the North diary which apparently makes reference to a telephone conversation between North and Mr. Clarridge in the early morning hours of-

Mr. George. May I, again? Q? Mr. Kerr. Q-1353. It is exhibit 43.

Mr. George. Yes, I have it. Mr. Kerr. That makes reference to a telephone call that Colonel North received from Mr. Clarridge. It talks about being summoned in by Clair and McMahon and then there is the phrase "this is criminal."

From our previous conversation, it is my understanding that you do not recall participating in a meeting on the 25th of November in

which a statement to that effect was made?

Mr. George. This never happened. For John McMahon and me to call in a staff employee of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Operations Directorate, and say—imply your behavior is criminal, two things would happen. I would never forget it, and secondly, we would certainly take it to the Department of Justice.

Mr. Kerr. So this comment was not made by you and was not

made in your presence; is that correct?

Mr. George. No.

Mr. Kerr. The committee has heard testimony on the description of the cargo that was carried by the CIA's proprietary. You will recall the description that was utilized at the time was oil-drilling

equipment.

The committee has heard testimony from Don Regan, for example, that he knew that that was a cover story, that there was military cargo being carried by the proprietary. People like Charlie Allen, for example, have testified in deposition that he was suspicious of the oil equipment cover story that weekend and by the evening, early morning hours of the 26th, [deleted] which suggested that military equipment had been carried.

The Agency's lawyer, Mr. Sporkin, said that on the 25th of November, he learned that the proprietary had carried military equipment. You would have known, isn't it correct, on Monday or Tuesday the 25th and 26th of November that the proprietary had, in

fact, carried military equipment to Tehran?

Mr. George. That is not my recollection. My recollection was that at that moment that week there was confusion as to what that plane had carried, but the story being given to me as I returned was it was carrying nonlethal equipment, oil-drilling equipment.

Mr. KERR. That story would have been given to you first and

foremost by Mr. Clarridge?

Mr. George. I cannot—I think the story would have probably been given to me first by my own personal staff in my office. When I am running around, as we discussed yesterday, collecting the cables from that weekend for Mr. McMahon, as I am doing this, I am sure I am saying "What is it? Why did it happen? Where? Why and what?"

It was told to me by them. I do not remember Mr. Clarridge

saying it was or wasn't oil-drilling equipment.

Mr. Kerr. With regard to what you did understand at the time, based on your experience, the state of Israel was not in the business of—or at least not known for exporting oil-drilling equipment, was it?

Mr. George. Well, I wouldn't agree with that statement. The complexity of the Israeli-Iranian relationship over the years—as I am sure everyone is familiar with—the importance of that relationship to the state of Israel, they had attempted since the fall of the Shah to open doors in Iran, as they properly should geopolitically.

I don't see any reason why they wouldn't ship oil-drilling equipment although certainly the coin of the realm in the Middle East is

called "arms."

Mr. Kerr. Yes, sir. Just one more thought on that score.

Do you have any explanation for how the CIA's attorney, Mr. Sporkin, knew that military equipment was being carried by that airplane when the Agency's chief covert operations operative did not?

Mr. George. I do not.

Mr. Kerr. OK. With regard to what was known during that period of time, the—you were aware, from your testimony yesterday, that Mr. McMahon was concerned that a Finding was required?

Mr. George. Absolutely. He so told me.

Mr. Kerr. You have previously testified, however, that you were not aware of the fact that a Finding was drafted and submitted to Admiral Poindexter for the President on November 26th?

Mr. George. One of the more bewildering experiences I have had throughout this affair took place in late November, early December of 1986, when I testified under oath to the Senate Select Committee and Senator Cohen of Maine held a sheaf of papers in front of me and said here are all the Findings. And I said all the what?

And I said I had one Finding. The Finding I had was the Finding that was shown to me in the White House. I was not involved nor was I—I knew John McMahon said, "You will not support this activity—"—and I now know John knew more about that activity than I did—"—without a Finding."

But the preparations of the Finding-which, again, gentlemen, much of this comes from your hearings and from the prese—the preparation or the many variations of that Finding I was not made privy to that.

Mr. KERR. In terms of your knowledge of that period of time, let me just place a couple of people. Mr. Juchniewicz was your

Deputy?

Mr. George. He is my Deputy.

Mr. Kerr. You and Mr. Juchniewicz would have been in touch with each other during this period of time, I assume.

Mr. George. Very much so.

Mr. Kerr. Are you aware that Mr. Juchniewicz apparently attended a meeting with Mr. McMahon on December 5th, 1985, in which Mr. McMahon indicated that there was a Finding proposed

and that the Finding had, in fact, been signed.

Mr. George. I have seen a piece of paper, thanks very much to this committee, which is the recollection of events of John McMahon's personal assistant made a year after the fact. And in that piece of paper, that individual, John McMahon's personal assistant, says that it is her recollection of that 6 December—whenever counsel meeting, that there was a statement to the point that the President signed a Finding. I have asked Mr. Dunn, who was [deleted], who is purported to have attended that meeting, about that and he can recall no such thing.

Mr. Kerr. I see. The memorandum in question is exhibit 76, I

believe.

Mr. George. I appreciate it. I might say in discussing exhibit 76, which is the 28 November recap by [deleted], I had never seen that paper before, and the people who attended for me—I have not seen Ed who has since retired, but Bert Dunn, who is now my Deputy and [deleted], Chief of my Information Management Staff, cannot remember the statement that the President signed the Finding.

Mr. Kerr. There is one other document apparently generated at that time by Mr. McMahon which mentioned the Finding and that is a memorandum for the record prepared on December 7, 1985, which is exhibit 44. That memorandum, I take it from what you are telling us, is not an item that you would have seen at the time it was written either; is that correct?

Mr. George. I do not recall this memorandum.

Mr. Kerr. So the bottom line is that from your point of view, your recollection, Mr. McMahon did not apprise you, the head of covert operations for the CIA, that a Finding had been drafted and

indeed signed?

Mr. George. I think Mr. McMahon—it is my judgment after the fact with those facts I have, obviously John McMahon was aware as he should have been of more of the activity that was going on than I was. I was not aware of the activity. John made known to me a direct order. "You will not participate again in the Operations Directorate in any similar activities similar to the flight of the weekend of the end of November without a Finding."

I assume there is a Finding being prepared. In the helter-skelter of the time and of that moment, I was never consulted about a

Finding and the many variations which I now know exist.

Mr. Kerr. One of the matters I want to bring out in this portion of the testimony is the—for whatever reason—the slippage in information between people and the failure to communicate. On that score, let me bring to your attention a matter we discussed the other day.

That is the meeting that took place on December 4th, 1985, between Mr. Allen, Mr. Clarridge, and Mr. Ledeen, which is memori-

alized in exhibit 45.

In that meeting, as the memo indicates, on December 4th, Mr. Ledeen went through for Mr. Clarridge and Mr. Allen the preceding events on the TOW and HAWK shipments in some detail.

Mr. George. Correct.

Mr. Kerr. And made quite clear what had been shipped by the proprietary on the weekend of the 23d and 24th of November.

Now, my understanding of when we talked before is that this memo is also a matter you were not familiar with at that time; is

Mr. George. It is my recollection that I have never seen this memo before. I asked Mr. Clarridge when he returned from his testimony 2 days ago if he had—it is my understanding he did not. And a careful reading of the memo indicates to me that Mr. Allen—although it starts out implying Mr. Allen—excuse me, Mr. Ledeen approached Mr. Allen and Mr. Clarridge, Mr. Clarridge says, "you take care of this, Mr. Allen, I am leaving."

This memo, and I think you will recall the look on my face, is new to me. I have never seen it. And I have carefully questioned Bert Dunn, who is now my Deputy who was then [deleted]. I have

questioned [deleted]—then Deputy of [deleted], now [deleted].

I questioned the Chief of the Iranian Branch and nobody can recall this memo.

Mr. Kerr. So I am clear, though, you had no recollection of ever

having seen this memo at all?

Mr. George. I cannot believe I have ever seen such a memo. I worry often, and I think this has happened, and I made this point, I know you understand, in the amount of paper that comes through my office, things that are not even sent to me, people initial for me and all of those problems. But this is dynamite and this just couldn't have been passed through without reaction.

Mr. Kerr. One final question on that point. When you talked to Mr. Clarridge about what he knew about this memorandum, did he

have a recollection of ever having seen it himself?

Mr. George. It is unfair for me to talk for Dewey. He was leaving town the night after he testified here. I said "holy cats", he came up to tell me how it went. I reminded him of this activity and it was my impression and maybe I should allow him to speak for himself, that yes, he remembers Ledeen came in and Mr. Allen talked to Mr. Ledeen, but all of these descriptions he implied he did not see this memo.

Mr. KERR. All right. Thank you.

Mr. George. May I, counsel, briefly?

As I left last night, I would like to make a point to the commit-

tee and to you, sir.

I want to lead you back to the famous flight on the last weekend in November. I hope I did not leave you with the impression that I believe there is a missing cable. I don't know.

I talked about how a cable could be missing and some of my colleagues felt I might have left the impression I agreed that is a

missing cable. I don't know. I know both sides of the story.

Mr. Kerr. So we are clear, the only point I was trying to get across is you are familiar with the fact there are two cables by number, at least, that have not been provided to us from that time? Mr. George. So I am told.

Mr. Kerr. Yes, sir.

Moving ahead just a bit further, 3 days after Mr. Ledeen met with Mr. Clarridge, perhaps briefly, and longer with Mr. Allen, on December 7th, 1985, Mr. McMahon attended a meeting with the President of the United States and others at which time the Iranian initiative was discussed?

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. KERR. Again, from what you have told me before, it is my understanding you were not familiar with that fact at the time it was going on?

Mr. George. I cannot recall that fact.

Mr. Kerr. Immediately after that meeting, Mr. McFarlane leaves and goes and meets Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. George. In London.

Mr. Kerr. In London. You were not familiar with that event?

Mr. George. I have trouble—my frank answer is no. Although now—you know, I know so many things as we all do afterwards. Did I know McFarlane went to London and met with Ghorbanifar? No. I cannot remember that.

Mr. KERR. Your best recollection, though, is that you had no con-

temporaneous knowledge of these events?

Mr. George. Of these events. Of this stirring around on the Ghorbanifar issue, people meeting him, organizing things with him. The significance of the event as we now see it after the fact could not have been forgotten by me if I had been included.

Mr. Kerr. Similarly, after McFarlane returned, there was another meeting at which Director Casey was present which must have occurred about the 10th of December as reflected in exhibit 47. Again, based on our previous conversation, it is my understanding that that event, the return of Bud McFarlane and his reaction to Mr. Ghorbanifar was not something that was known to you contemporaneously?

Mr. George. No.

Mr. Kerr. You did come into the picture, however, on or about the 20th of December when Director Casey talked to you about Mr. Ghorbanifar in-

Mr. George. Well, this is a very key point. It is a point I tried to refer to yesterday. At what point in that time span from that flight to the Finding did I get into the act about Ghorbanifar, because I got into the act—excuse me—preaching against him.

I arrived on the scene in Mr. Casey's office, Mr. McMahon's office, my office, wherever I could be heard, saying we don't want

anything to do with this guy. There is a burn notice.

Yes, by the 20th, and now we are involved with the [deleted] affair. I will let you go on, counsel. At some point in there I am plugged into Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Kerr. In terms of triggering events, however, I mentioned to you the other day Director Casey had met with Mr. L deen on the

19th.

Mr. George. I have no recollection of that.

Mr. Kerr. You were not familiar with that. When Director Casey gave you the request to re-evaluate Ghorbanifar you and your people decided that [deleted] would be the person to do that; correct?

Mr. George. That is quite correct.

Mr. Kerr. [Deleted] did make arrangements to go out and meet with Mr. Ledeen at his house and Mr. Ghorbanifar and ultimately Colonel North came by; is that correct?

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. Kerr. The results of that workup are contained in exhibit 49 and that is a document which is directed to Director Casey and I assume went to him. The conclusion of the episodes of the 22d and 23d of December is that you all decided that a polygraph test of

Mr. Ghorbanifar should be taken; correct?

Mr. George. [Deleted] came back from the meeting with Mr. Ghorbanifar only further convinced of the untruthfulness or the lack of trust that we could put in Mr. Ghorbanifar and we were urged again to test him possibly by the Director, possibly by Mr. McMahon, possibly by me. All right. Let's—excuse the phrase we use, "throw him back on the polygraph."

Mr. Kerr. One of the purposes of that was to try to establish by objective data, i.e., the test, some proof that this man could or

could not be trusted?

Mr. George. Yes. We were totally prejudiced. I mean, we suffer every—all the faults of human nature. We convinced ourselves

that Ghorbanifar was absolutely untrustworthy, but if you want us to put him back on the polygraph, we will do that. And the results—well, go ahead.

Mr. Kerr. And the results were obtained when the polygraph

was taken on the 11th on January.

Mr. George. He showed deception on 13 out of 15 questions. The

only questions he passed were his name and his nationality.

Mr. Kerr. We have at exhibit 52 another entry from Colonel North's diary. This one is at Q-1440. It shows that at 12:20 p.m. on the 13th of January, you called Colonel North and said something

to the effect Ghorbanifar is lying on 13 of 15 items?

Mr. George. I am sure I did. Because I was under pressure from Colonel North—it is not fair to say "pressure." Colonel North, as I said yesterday, and I were on the phone with some regularity. Colonel North, if I can phrase it this way, wanted Mr. Ghorbanifar to pass his polygraph exam.

Mr. Kerr. You wanted to make sure Colonel North got the mes-

sage?

Mr. George. I wanted him to get it from the horse's mouth that one more time Mr. Ghorbanifar in the exact phraseology shows deception on 13 out of 15 issues.

Mr. Kerr. At the time you talked to Colonel North, were you aware Colonel North was in the process of drafting a revision to a Finding that had already been signed on about the 6th of January?

Mr. George. As I said to you yesterday, counsel, I am sort of the fool here. I am playing the fool. It wasn't whether Colonel North was drafting a Finding, using Ghorbanifar. The Governments of Israel and the United States had been using Mr. Ghorbanifar since the summer of 1985 to involve themselves in a highly complicated international arms deal. So here is some guy running around talking about polygraph when two major nations have already taken

major foreign policy decisions based on his use.
Mr. Kerr. So at least with the benefit of 20-20 hindsight, you perceive yourself having been participating in something of a cha-

rade at the time?

Mr. George. Well, you know, maybe I could have stopped it. I could have really raised hell and convinced everything in Jerusalem and Washington.

Mr. Cohen. Could you clarify, you were not aware at that time that Israel and the United States had been involved in a major.

complicated arms deal?

Mr. George. At the time, no. But I am now—but in July of 1987,

I realize how silly I may have looked at the time.

Mr. Kerr. It is that concept, that feeling of silliness, did anyone, Casey or otherwise, explain to you why you were put through that drill?

Mr. George. William Casey—who was always kind and courteous and a dear friend of mine and never, who never treated me otherwise—listened carefully to my pleas about Mr. Ghorbanifar. And if my memory serves me, I did something I rarely did with the Director. He is the Director, and I had great faith in him. I said, "Bill, I am not going to run this guy anymore," which means in our langauge. "I will not handle him; he is a bum."

And Casey said, "Well, look, he does—" see, there are levels of Ghorbanifar. Ghorbanifar knows endless things: hit teams in Europe, these Iranian terrorist centers [deleted], plans to overthrow [deleted], all these different things. Bill Casey said to me, "he has what appears to be valuable terrorist information."

This is another problem. Terrorist information you cannot dismiss no matter how foolish it looks. You have got to take terrorist information seriously even though you think who told you is crazy.

He said to me, "would you mind if I had my National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism meet with Mr. Ghorbanifar to discuss terrorism?"

And I guess I said, "no, I don't mind."

Mr. Kerr. Let me just jump out of sequence on that for a moment. We discussed it again the other day. As to the terrorism information that Mr. Ghorbanifar provided, not only as of January 13, but as of his meeting January 26 in England with Mr. Allen,

your people evaluated that information, did you not?

Mr. George. Mr. Allen prepared and I think it is an exhibit, a nine-page, single-spaced typewritten report based on a meeting that he had in London in the Churchill Hotel with Mr. Ghorbanifar, 90 percent of which was Mr. Ghorbanifar's information on terrorism. I think, counsel, correct me—I do not believe it is a document here in my book—but the, the NE Division of the Operations Directorate wrote a four-page rebuttal of that particular meeting pointing out the discrepancies, untruthfulness, lack of factuality in Mr. Ghorbanifar's tale.

Mr. KERR. I think we have now put that in the book. I think ex-

hibit 57 is the memorandum you have in mind.

The bottom line, though, is that when your people who were expert in this area evaluated the terrorism information of Mr. Ghorbanifar, they essentially concluded it was junk; isn't that right?

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. Kerr. All right. Now, let's come back to January 13, that period of time.

Mr. George. We are in——

Mr. Kerr. 1986.

Mr. GEORGE. 1986.

Mr. Kerr. You have reached the conclusion Mr. Ghorbanifar continues to be someone you don't want to do business with?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. And on January 16, or 17, you all put out a notice, the Operations Directorate, put out a notice that says the CIA is going to do no further business with Mr. Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. All right. We also know that that very day---

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. —the President of the United States signed a Finding

that required you to do business with Ghorbanifar—

Mr. George. On the 18th after having sent a cable, we will do no more business with Mr. Ghorbanifar, I was taken to the White House and given a Finding which in its practical sense said you will be doing business with Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Kerr. Now, as of the information you learned after the Finding was signed, January 18, that period of time, do you today have any knowledge as to whether the President of the United States had been given the benefit of the analysis that your people did have on Mr. Ghorbanifar as of that time?

Mr. George. I do not know.

Mr. Kerr. Thank you.

One other event that occurred at that period of time is that you all told—you yourself told Mr. Casey that you didn't want to run Mr. Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. That is correct, counsel.

Mr. Kerr. He chose an alternative way of dealing with that; isn't that correct? He chose Mr. Allen sort of as a case officer.

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. Mr. Allen, you previously testified, is a NIO, a National Intelligence Officer?

Mr. George. National Intelligence Officer.

Mr. Kerr. He has not been trained in or brought up in the Operations Directorate; is that correct?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Kerr. One of the other points that you made yesterday is that Mr. Ghorbanifar was difficult for the CIA because he was very difficult to handle, to control, correct?

Mr. George. He is as complex an individual as—I guess since he

has got us into the last 8 months—I have ever run into.

Mr. Kerr. So in terms of a person for trained operation——Mr. George. There couldn't have been a better mismatch.

Mr. Kerr. Your perception today, based on what you told us previously, is that your decision to pull away from Mr. Ghorbanifar and allow Mr. Allen to become his case officer may very well have been a mistake?

Mr. George. I would have said to you 4 months ago it was a terrible mistake; I should have fought with Casey, and said if we are going to handle this guy, I'll handle him and I'll get three of the

meanest men I know alive and we'll handle him.

You see, all that was unimportant. It didn't matter what I said. It didn't matter whether I said, let my 18-year-old daughter handle him. They were already using him in a major international foreign affairs activity, so as I said yesterday, I'm not playing with the whole deck.

Mr. Kerr. In terms of the potential risks of having someone like Charlie Allen take on the responsibility for Ghorbanifar, do you today know whether those risks were brought to the attention of either the National Security Adviser or the President?

Mr. George. I do not.

Mr. Kerr. In terms of what that leaves us, I would like to kind of summarize where we have been in the period between June of 1985 and January of 1986 when you all got your assignments.

One of the things that you all are responsible for doing is collecting information off American shores of things that relate to American foreign policy and risks to the national security; isn't that right?

Mr. GEORGE. We are the primary collector of human intelligence

outside the continental United States.

Mr. Kerr. So knowing what's going on beyond our borders is a big part of your portfolio?

Mr. George. Sometimes we make it, sometimes we don't.

Mr. Kerr. In this situation we have a situation where, for a variety of reasons, you didn't know what was going on.

Mr. George. We knew less about what was going on in Washing-

ton than we did overseas.

Mr. Kerr. You were being cut off inside your own capital from information that would allow you to know what was going on out-

side; isn't that right?

Mr. George. In September of 1985, Bill Casey had me, John McMahon, Bob Gates in his office, and Bill Casey said, "I've just had a strange meeting in the White House. Bud McFarlane informs me that the Israelis have approached them, the Israelis have established a contact with Iranian interests, and these contacts could lead to an opening of a dialogue with certain Iranians and to release of hostages. But the Israelis have one demand: CIA not be informed." And there was a twinkle in Casey's eye and he said, "I wonder what in hell this is all about."

[Deleted].

Mr. Kerr. Let me just try to crystallize the points. Your job was

made tougher. You were blinded by the lack of information.

Mr. George. I don't want to appear—I'm not going to sit here and say, my God, I didn't know a thing, I'm an innocent child in the woods. An important policy decision was made between the Government of Israel and the Government of the United States to ship arms to Iran for the purpose of getting hostages and getting a dialogue. It was decided to do that within the White House with only, in January, the technical support of the CIA.

Mr. Kerr. But what that means is that the professional skill and

expertise that was within your Operational Directorate——

Mr. George. Was not used properly.

Mr. Kerr. And it was not brought to the attention of the President?

Mr. George. I do not know what the President knew.

Mr. Kerr. Let's go to your relationship with Colonel North for a moment. From going through his diaries, it is apparent that you

had numerous contacts with the Colonel.

Mr. George. When he was in town, I must have talked to Colonel North, almost always phone contacts and/or meetings in the White House of many people, I have rarely had a meeting alone with Colonel North, maybe two or three times, but, yes, week in, week out, if the Colonel were here, if I were here, we talked to each other.

Mr. Kerr. There is a curiosity with the diaries. There is a great deal of reference to you in 1985 and very little in 1986. Did you

have less contact with him from your recollection in 1986?

Mr. George. Let me try to put in a framework what my dealings were with North, and I'm sure under the questioning of members

and others, we can get into this deeper.

North was very good with me in discussing Central America, and I know I'll be asked whatever he was doing. He didn't talk to me about Central America. My Central American discussions with him, if I may say so—we picked—let me digress a little bit.

The North relationship is important. I picked with John McMahon's—John McMahon picked, I picked, we picked and forced into Bill Casey's office the appointment of [C/CATF] in September of 1984 to run the Central American Task Force because we smelled it was going to be the most difficult job in our directorate, and boy, were we right. I had a terrible problem of personalities with North and [C/CATF]. They tripped over each other in that they are both terribly dynamic operators, and [C/CATF] would come to me and complain that Ollie was moving into his turf and Ollie would call me and say, "Goddamn [C/CATF]." It was never weapons; this was just politics in Central America which we were legally allowed to be participating in. That never ended, and I was sort of a referee between these two very strong personalities in a sort of general commander way. You will make it, don't worry, he's a good guy.

Secondly, the real business that North and I did, and we did intensely through late 1984 and early on through 1985, was hostages. He became the hostage focal point in the White House and I took, as you know from reading my depositions, great personal interest in the hostage affair, because of Buckley, [deleted] and because American lives are important to us. Yes, that did taper off in 1986, because I think—and this is just a guess, counsel—North became

more a. d more involved in Iranian affairs.

[Deleted].

Mr. Kerr. We now know today, however, that Colonel North engaged in certain operational activities of his own. Do you have any knowledge of taking this, what you describe as a romantic notion, and taking it towards implementation?

Mr. George. No.

[Deleted].

Mr. Kerr. One other aspect of North's relationships. Did you become familiar with or acquainted with North's relationship with

Director Casey?

Mr. George. I knew they knew each other well. I remember sitting in the office and hearing Ollie North call Casey and talk to him and Casey would talk to him. They were, I think, among us, that Oliver North, and he's a friend of mine, had guts in approaching anybody anywhere anytime in any conditions without any concern about their title, rank—you know, we all grew up that you don't just storm into the CEO's office the third day with the company, and Ollie did it. Bill Casey liked Ollie North. We all did.

Mr. Kerr. An impression I have from talking to people in your directorate is they came away with the impression that—was it your impression that in talking to Colonel North, Director Casey would learn very quickly of the conversation, that that was a way

of talking to the Director?

Mr. George. If Ollie talked to——

Mr. Kerr. If you talked to Colonel North, would your conversa-

tion be related to Director Casey by Colonel North?

Mr. George. It was evident in my relations with Ollie, it became evident—I haven't read all the PROF notes. I have read some of those in the back of the Tower Commission Report. Ollie wasted no time. If I gave him the wrong answer, he called Bill Casey to see if he could get it changed.

On many occasions, I said, "Ollie, you're out of your GD mind, I'm not taking the responsibility for that." He would then get back to me by going to Poindexter or McFarlane and they would go to Casey and sometimes Casey would make another decision.

Mr. Kerr. So I get perceptions clear, did you come away over time with the impression that Colonel North, when he asked for something, was in all likelihood going to be backed up by the Direc-

tor?

Mr. George. No. We had plenty of fight-outs, Ollie and I, over things, especially the hostages things. When I knew about it and I

took him on, I could get my way with Bill Casey.

Mr. Kerr. Let me turn to another area completely, and that is the testimony that you gave to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence on October 14, 1986. You will recall that that testimony was given shortly after the Hasenfus plane was shot down.

Mr. George. I do, sir.

Mr. Kerr. And you will recall that you made an opening statement in which you, at page 4, stated categorically that the Central Intelligence Agency was not involved directly or indirectly in arranging, directing or facilitating resupply missions conducted by private individuals in support of the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance.

Do you recall making that statement?

Mr. George. I know I did.

Mr. Kerr. Whatever you knew then, as of today, you know that that statement is incorrect?

Mr. George. The statement—let me try to—I don't want to say that I know that statement is incorrect. Let me tell you what I

think and then jump me.

As an institution, the Central Intelligence Agency did not basically organize and conduct the Hasenfus flight or the other highly complicated private-benefactor activities. Yes, you are right. Reading it legally and tightly, and I will apologize, I would like to apologize to Senator Cohen, and if he were here, I would apologize to Senator Nunn. You could say I was wrong.

One, I did not know about the [Castillo] incident. And two, technically speaking, we had received permission a year before to pass vectoring information through the FDN, which would then get in the hands of the private benefactors. I am told it is an incidental detail that the Hasenfus flight did not receive that information.

But technically, I apologize. I'm wrong.

In a larger sense, I would like to tell you, because I spent every breathing minute from 1 October 1984 to this date, it was not the overall attention or activity of the CIA to direct or participate in

the Hasenfus flight.

Mr. Kerr. Let me add one other thought, though. Apart from [Castillo], we have now developed, and you all have developed through your IG, information relating to [deleted], who's known as [deleted], and to [deleted], relating to the transportation of lethal equipment using CIA helicopters in the period after the Sandinista incursion in approximately April of 1986 and for a considerable period after that.

You have only recently learned of that activity; isn't that correct?

Mr. George. The [Castillo] activity came out in November, December, January of '86-'87. The [deleted] activity came out in March or April, I guess, counsel. Yes, recently, and I am the most bewildered man in the world about [deleted]. I don't quite know what happened there.

Mr. Kerr. Insofar as ammunition and weapons were being transferred in helicopters out of [deleted], that would have been a viola-

tion of policy?

Mr. George. It is certainly a violation of our policy.

Mr. Kerr. Apart from what the Agency itself was doing, you also were present when Mr. Abrams was asked some questions, which

appear at page 17 of the transcript.

Chairman Hamilton asked whether or not the same denial applies to the U.S. Government across the board. You said that you couldn't speak for the entire U.S. Government, simply for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. Abrams did not have that qualm. He, in essence, said that he could speak for the Government, and that that activity had not

taken place.

As of the time that you were listening to Mr. Abrams make that statement, you knew that statement was not correct; didn't you?

Mr. George. I was surprised he made the statement. I don't deal with Mr. Abrams often. He deals with the chief of our Latin American Division. My contacts at the State Department are Ambassador Abramowitz and Ambassador Armacost.

You know, I perceived that the National Security Council was and had been in some manner participating in some way in supplying the Contras, and that had grown on me. I saw it sort of coming when I was Director of Congressional Affairs in the spring of 1984 when talk began, can't we get private support if we lose the Boland fight.

Everbody—Bill Casey, Ollie North, certainly the rest of the White House—never talked to me about it. They were very good about it. People could have started telling me things, and I could

have been put in a very embarrassing position. They didn't.

I was surprised that Abrams made that statement. It was so cate-

gorical.

The question is, should I leap up and say, "hold it, Elliott, what about—excuse me, all you members of HPSCI, but Elliott and I are now going to discuss what we know about"—I didn't have the guts to do it or I didn't do it.

Mr. Kerr. The members may want to pursue that with you.

My question is less on jumping up and down and more on what you knew at the time. You knew as of October, 1986, that Colonel North had a direct and indeed controlling interest in the aircraft and the like that were being used by the private benefactors.

Mr. George. I wouldn't use those words. I would never say he

had a direct and controlling interest. I never said that.

Mr. Kerr. Is it not a fact per your testimony in deposition that Colonel North had offered to sell to the CIA through you the aircraft of his project in Central America?

Mr. George. As we reached the end of fiscal year 1986——

Mr. Kerr. So that would have been-

Mr. George. —and the vote was perceived by the White House that [deleted]. I don't have a date, but as you and I have discussed, I received a phone call from Colonel North. He didn't say to me, "I own, control, run, manage and fully have these airplanes." He said, "Would you like to buy some airplanes?" And he discussed the private-benefactor airplanes.

Mr. Kerr. In terms of placing that in time, that would have occurred before October 14, 1986, correct? The new fiscal year had

begun at that point?

Mr. George. You have studied it. I can't argue with you. You know what my thinking was, I wouldn't buy those planes if they were the last three planes in Central America.

Mr. Kerr. Yes, sir. The other point that I wanted to make sure gets fleshed out, Colonel North was offering to sell the aircraft, not

give them to you.

Mr. George. God bless poor Colonel North. Everything was his, the world is mine, I'm going to see the President, I'm going to see the King, I'm going to fly down to Central America and have a private conference. How would you like some tickets to the Redskins game? Christ—Colonel North calls me up and says, "How would you like to buy my airplanes?" I guess what I'm saying, counsel, is, were I to have been so foolish as to say yes, I'll buy your airplanes, I'm not sure he could even produce any airplanes.

Mr. KERR. You did not go and kick the tires on the car, I under-

stand. But your perception was that he was asking the CIA——
Mr. GEORGE. Would the CIA please buy back all the equipment that the private benefactors had put together in Central America now that the administration had achieved its goal of renewing [deleted] financial support to the Contras in Central America.

Mr. Kerr. Similarly you were familiar that earlier in time, Colonel North had been the one that offered to rent to the CIA the

vessel the Erria; isn't that correct?

Mr. George. Colonel North met with a very—that is not fair—level officer. Well, there was a series of meetings. I thought they were in 1985, and thanks to you I had a chance to check; it was in 1986, a series of meetings [deleted].

[Deleted]

Oliver North arrives on the scene—you have dates—and just hustles out of me and a couple of guys in the situation room that he can get me a ship. I'm not speaking against Colonel North. I do not want any equipment that Colonel North has.

Mr. Kerr. One of the reasons that you didn't want this particu-

lar piece of equipment-

Mr. George. Although it only cost \$200,000 I got to rent it for a million and a half a month, so it was not the best deal I'd ever have worked for the taxpayers.

Mr. Kerr. On October 14, 1986, when Mr. Abrams is making these statements, you may not know who actually has title to these

pieces of equipment-

Mr. George. Colonel North, I knew long before that, even without the evidence, counsel, that you're bringing correctly, yes. I don't know about [C/CATF] testimony, but it became evident to [C/ CATF and to me, and back to what I said, when John McMahon

and I picked [C/CATF], it became evident in the fall of 1984 that we were going to get into deep, deep water and that someone somewhere in the National Security Council was going to certainly support the Contras and they were going to seek private funding.

We assumed Ollie knew about it. Ollie would say in a telephone conversation, "Oh, my God, I got to get out of the Central American thing." And I am neither a coward saying, "don't you ever say that to me again," nor a fool and say, "oh, tell me what you're doing," and he never did.

I assume, thanks to this committee and all that has gone on, we

now know a lot about it.

Mr. Kerr. Thank you, Mr. George.

Mr. Chairman, I'm finished.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Genzman, do you have any questions at this time?

Mr. Genzman. I do not at this time, sir.

Chairman Hamilton. We will begin, then, with the principal questioners, Senator Inouye.

Chairman Inouye. Senator Cohen.

Can I make an announcement at this time, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Inouye.

Chairman Inouye. I would like to announce to the members of the Senate panel that we will have a special meeting in the ante-

room during the 10:30 break.
Chairman Hamilton. I will make an announcement at this time, too. The House members will meet immediately after the end of the morning session to consider some immunity questions. And I would announce this as well: There is a closed session with Admiral Poindexter, for any interested members, in room 219 of the Hart Building at 1:30 this afternoon. The subject matter, I am told by Mr. Liman, is very limited in nature and the meeting will be quite brief, I presume.

Mr. Liman. About half an hour.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Liman estimates about a half hour.

Senator Cohen, you may proceed. Mr. Cohen. Perhaps the record should show that Mr. George engaged in a deep huddle before responding to the chairman calling upon me, and secondly, the record should note that he is sporting a Boothbay Harbor tan, which I am told-

Mr. George. I would urge everybody to hurry there, but that

would be a terrible thing to say right now.

Mr. Cohen. You indicated you were quite surprised that Elliott Abrams made a statement before the House Intelligence Committee that no one in the U.S. Government had any knowledge about U.S. participation direct or indirect with respect to the Hasenfus matter, and that you remained silent.

[C/CATF] testified yesterday that he sat there at the same table and decided he wasn't going to be the first one to break rank, that he was aware the statement was incorrect as well, but that he felt as the junior member of that team he should not be the first one to

step forward.

You may recall that I asked Elliott Abrams during the open sessions whether or not he felt betrayed by a number of different people, particularly apparently since there were some sitting at the same table who knew what he was saying was incorrect. I believe he indicated at the time, yes, he had even called the White House to say, "Is this the White House line, am I doing the right thing," before he made the statement.

The question I have is in response to what you said today. You said, I guess I didn't have the guts to challenge Elliott Abrams at

that hearing. The question I raise is, why not?

I must tell you, and we know this, you and I have been at many individual meetings, had a panel of witnesses, sometimes one of us will pose a question and there will be a conference between the members and saying, wait a minute, don't say this, don't say that. It is done all the time. It is done all the time at a conference. Whenever you have a tripartite panel as such, there is always kind of a little conference in response to a question that one of us might pose.

Why at that moment, when something as critical as the issue of U.S. involvement in Nicaragua was posed by the House Intelligence Committee, didn't you at that point just pull Elliott aside and say, "Hold on a second; you're making a statement which is

not correct"?

Mr. George. Two things. Excuse me.

I was overly—I don't want to use the word "obsessed." I don't like it. Overly taken with trying to protect the Central Intelligence

Agency.

Whatever my strengths and weaknesses, I bopped around a lot of time, you have, too, we know the troubles we were in in the seventies. I was almost megalomaniacal in trying to prove one thing. That we were not involved in that activity because it would have been illegal.

That was the thrust of my testimony to the HPSCI and you may or may not recall I made the same sort of statements, if you don't I will tell you—to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in front of whom I also appeared. I perceived my charter too small. I really took off out of the building to come down here on the Hill and

make that point, that we were not doing it.

Secondly, I found the statements so categorical on the part of Mr. Abrams, it wasn't sort of well, we are not in the State Department and maybe they are not here in that. It was so categorical, it was the sort of thought that went through my mind—excuse me, Elliott, but maybe you are the only guy in town that hasn't heard this news. You know, there's a three inch Nexis press run about Ollie North and the Contras. There was a staff meeting, if I understand correctly, between the HPSCI and Ollie North somewhere in the summer of 1986, discussing Ollie North and the Contras. I've just—I'm just sort of amazed, and yes, I can only apologize that I didn't sort of say—and we have, Senator, and I know we have, because you and I have been at this a long time. Off the record, please, couldn't you discuss something with Elliott. I didn't. I should have.

Mr. Cohen. Well, Elliott went back to the State Department and apparently some of his aides said Elliott, you may have misled the committee in terms of another appearance on the Hill.

Mr. George. It's a terribly categorical statement that no one in the Government of the United States of America is involved in any

way whatsoever with the Contras.

Mr. Cohen. On another occasion he testified before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and was asked a question by Senator Bradley concerning solicitations. He omitted the Brunei solicitation. He went back to the State Department and apparently he was concerned enough about it, he wanted to correct the record in December of 1986. I'm just wondering in terms of what happened with Elliott Abrams when he made a misstatement or didn't reveal something to the committee that he should have, he was corrected by his superiors as such and suggested that he come back to the Hill.

I'm curious in terms of that particular session that you all had with the HPSCI, didn't someone either [C/CATF] discuss this with you, say, "Wait a minute, we have got the [Castillo] vector information activity, that that statement that Elliott made is not quite right; perhaps we should take this up with the HPSCI on a following day.

ing day.
"Should we call Chairman Stokes and say look, this wasn't quite accurate. We were sitting there. We remained silent. We were not asked the question. Had we been asked, we might have said this,

but we think you should know about the following."

Why wasn't that done?

Mr. George. Why there was no followup, Senator Cohen, I am unable to answer.

Excuse me. [Deleted] reminds me—well, he knows more about Central America than I do. I'm sure you don't mind me having this

three-way conversation for a moment.

My statement that the CIA had no involvement whatsoever with the Hasenfus flight, as you know, was later corrected, both with the HPSCI and with the SSCI after we found out the information about [Castillo]. I think the question was why didn't we correct Elliott Abrams' statement.

Mr. Cohen. The problem I have is that at the time he made a statement, you know—if you didn't know, certainly [C/CATF] knew that we, through [Castillo], were, in fact, providing flight vector in-

formation directly to the Contras. Isn't that true?

Mr. George. We learned afterwards that [Castillo]—I guess we knew before that [Castillo] had provided it directly. We learned afterwards he had provided more of it, and we knew that we had provided it indirectly through [deleted] and the FDN radio cutouts. That's correct, Senator Cohen.

Mr. Cohen. It was known that he had provided flight vector information at the time Elliott was making a statement. It wasn't

you had to wait——

Mr. George. It was not you had to wait, check the books, or call

your grandmother. You are quite right. I agree with you.

Mr. Cohen. The problem is that we were acting—the problem I have is in your statement that you had this megalomaniacal desire to protect the Agency, is that in that desire to protect the Agency, you may have, in fact, undermined its credibility in terms of people coming up to the Hill and dealing with the oversight committees and saying, now we have to go through a litany of questions.

Say, Mr. George, I am going to ask you these questions. [C/CATF], I want you to say the same thing for the record. Everyone, you will now have to answer the precise question, maybe under oath, maybe not. I mean that is a way in which we start to unravel the integrity of the Agency through the oversight process.

Mr. George. I deeply appreciate what you are saying. Mr. Cohen. OK. Would you go back and discuss some of Colonel North's proposals? I think you have described him as a fairly energetic, creative, full of ingenuity as well as zeal in terms of trying to deal with issues. [Deleted].

Deleted 1.

Mr. Cohen. What about the proposal of having the Contras grab a piece of land in Nicaragua, hold it, go down fighting with guns blazing a la the Alamo and then thereby rally congressional support to come to their aid or watch them be totally destroyed.

Mr. George. I am familiar with that thanks to these hearings,

sir. I never-

Mr. Cohen. Never heard of that one?

Mr. George. They never allowed me to participate in that one.

[Deleted].

Mr. Cohen. In view of the kind of creativity taking place [deleted], what about the diversion itself? What is wrong with a plan that was conceived by either Colonel North, the Israelis, Ghorbanifar, maybe Secord, of selling the weapons once the decision was made by the President on January 17, 1986, selling weapons, increasing the price, have enough left over after Ghorbanifar got his substantial cut, to put money to the other major program that the NSC was charged with running?

Mr. George. You do not sell U.S. Government equipment to make a profit, to engage in international activities that are neither authorized nor appropriated by the U.S. Congress. I don't want to

sound like a Mickey Mouse, but-

Mr. Cohen. You said that so quickly that I am wondering. Is that pretty standard faith of the CIA you would never allow this to take place to sell U.S. property at a profitmaking price so you could use it for another purpose?

Mr. George. I'm sure that we in the CIA without proper authorization would not sell U.S. Government property for a profit.

That's a very large subject, and I'd be here long.

Mr. Cohen. Explain the difference to me of what you just said. I asked you what was wrong with it? You gave an answer.

Mr. George. What was wrong with this—this is-

Mr. Cohen. I just want clarification. Mr. George. This is Clair George's half minute, personal opinion.

Mr. Cohen. You are the one in charge of covert operations.

Mr. George. We are engaged in covert operations with the authorization and approval and appropriation of funds of the U.S.

Congress.

We obviously conduct many—and you and I have been in many roundabouts where we didn't get the proper approval, where we didn't do what we said we did, but we do our best. The activity that we are looking into today was neither authorized nor appropriated. It contained private funds. They were spent for activities that the Congress was not engaged in and I think it might have been for

activities that were not properly—5-year hearings have proven to me—were not properly vetted through the senior Executive Branch of the Executive of the United States.

At the bottom of it is you cannot take U.S. weapons and just go out and sell them for a profit and use the profits as you see fit.

Mr. Cohen. What I am saying is that is pretty well accepted at

Mr. George. That's the gospel. That's the way you and I worked together for 6 years. I can't work any other way. I know I screw it up now and then, but I do my best to make it work that way.

Mr. Cohen. The point is it's a matter of doctrine at the Agency:

you simply do not do this?

Mr. George. With U.S. funds. I don't spend U.S. funds or use

U.S. property without proper authorization.

Mr. Cohen. If you sell U.S. property at a profit, that money belongs to the United States.

Mr. George. [Deleted].

You know that. You have allowed me to do that. I do that.

Mr. Cohen. The second tenet I assume at the Agency is you never allow the mixing of two covert activities so that one ends up funding the other?

Mr. George. That is illegal. It is not illegal. It's against the rules

[Deleted] in the comptroller's office runs [deleted] program. He runs [deleted] program. We don't yank it out of [deleted] and ship it

Mr. Cohen. Because one of the dangers inherent in such a combination of the two covert actions, in using one covert action to fund another, is that inevitably you have a conflict of interest arise, do

Mr. George. Well, that was not where—I was looking at it more that that would be improper. You have authorized me one million dollars to [deleted]. I take \$50,000 and take it off to [deleted] and [deleted], I have not done what I have been authorized to do either by my own leadership or the authorizing, appropriating process of the U.S. Congress.

Mr. Cohen. OK. My time is running short. I will try and close

this part of it rather quickly.

In any event, it is pretty well established at the Agency that at your level, and I would assume all the way through the Director, you simply do not conduct covert actions in this fashion. You do not allow the inflation of the price of the sale of weapons to then be used for a purpose not otherwise authorized?

Mr. George. Correct.

Mr. Cohen. Can you conceive of why the Director would have agreed to such a proposal? If he did?

Mr. George. Did he?

Mr. Cohen. I am asking you whether or not in your experience in dealing with Director Casey he would have approved of such a diversion of the proceeds for an off-the-shelf, independent, standalone fund to be used for other covert activities in the Middle East or to use a portion of the funds for the Nicaraguan Resistance?

Mr. George. The off-the-shelf, stand-alone, run-yourself spy service, which I had never heard of until, thanks to you, I heard of it as I understood it was sort of a self-generating private business, hopefully not making its money on arms. All of those things, to answer your question, sir, my experience with Bill Casey was absolute. He would never have approved it.

Mr. Cohen. I've got many more questions, Mr. Chairman. I will

forgo them at this point.

Chairman Hamilton Senator, I will be glad to yield some time to you at a later point if you like.

Mr. Boland is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. Boland. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Clair.

Mr. George. Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Boland. A number of these questions you probably have answered, but I find it rather troubling with the CIA officials who have been up here, with Duane Clarridge, [C/CATF], and now you, the inability to not recollect, not to remember, or to indicate when you were giving some answers here that you trail off into a blah,

blah, blah, about what you knew or what you didn't know.

In my experience, as you know well, in my experience as the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, I found the officials of the CIA to be very cooperative during that period of time, some 7 years. And because of that cooperation, I think that the intelligence community, particularly the CIA would agree, that the communication between the intelligence community and the Congress was at probably its highest point in years as a result of our cooperation and also the Senate's cooperation with what the intelligence community demanded and what it required during that period of time to build back its ability to give the kind of service that the intelligence community should give and essential service to the Government on intelligence.

Because without the CIA and the DIA, and the NSA, the ability to meet some of the problems around the world and inform this Nation or its leaders about what is going on, of course, is impossi-

ble.

So I am going to ask a few questions that you responded to, but I would like to get perhaps a little clearer answer on some of the re-

sponses that you gave.

First of all, let me ask the question: How many CIA personnel were assigned to the National Security Council? If I read it correctly you had [deleted], who is the Deputy Chief of the Near East Division, in some of the problems. And then he was replaced by Mr. Cave who, as I understand it, was a consultant to the CIA but was brought back on the payroll of the CIA after he became a—after he joined the NSC and was tasked by North on particular areas. Then Mr. Allen.

Is that correct? Are there any more?

Mr. George. [Deleted] was our Deputy Chief of our Near East Division and after the Finding you are quite correct, on three occasions he went to Europe for meetings including Mr. Ghorbanifar and then, yes, you are correct, Mr. Cave, who is a retiree with full Farsi and Iranian experience, went to meetings after that. That's correct.

Mr. Boland. Now you will note that—I am sure you do know because some of the CIA people I'm sure have informed you on the questions that were asked of Duane Clarridge and also [C/CATF].

One of the most troubling questions was the response given by them and also by you with reference to the—in the so-called full prohibition Boland Amendment which was enacted into law in October 1984. As you know that law forbade the CIA from supplying any direct or indirect assistance to military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua.

Although the strictures of the law were loosened over the next 2 years, first to allow for the provision of humanitarian aid and then to allow for the exchange of certain types of intelligence information, communications equipment, and infrastructure support, the CIA could not provide any military assistance to the Contras from

October 1st, 1984 through October 18th of 1986.

Mr. George. That's correct.

Mr. Boland. In your deposition, you testified that there were intense discussions in the CIA after the enactment of each Boland Amendment. At what level were those discussions held? Did you participate? Did Casey? Did the General Counsel or a representative of that office participate? And what kinds—what kind of guidance was provided to CIA personnel in Central America as to what they could do and could not do with respect to the Contras between October 1984, and October of 1986? And would you provide for the record copies of any written instructions sent to [deleted] in Central America on compliance with the Boland Amendments in effect during this period?

Mr. George. Mr. Chairman, of course I will.

I do believe many of those written instructions are now a matter of record of this committee, but I will assure that they are. If you like——

Mr. Boland. In substance what were they? In a relatively short

time. We don't have much time up here.

Mr. George. Beginning the first of October, 1984, we accepted the absolute total and complete cutoff of any support whatsoever to the Contras, and I believe there are a series of cables from my office, from the Latin American office, from the Central American Task Force. [Deleted] says—this is dated 12 October 1984. "We are in the process of obtaining the legal reading as to what we can and cannot do in our dealings with the FDN in light of this Congressional action. Until such a reading is obtained, all field stations are to cease and desist with actions which can be construed to be providing any type of support, either direct or indirect, to the various entities with whom we dealt under the [deleted]"—which was our previous paramilitary program. "All future contact with those entities are until further notice to be solely—repeat solely—for the purpose of collecting positive and/or counterintelligence information of interest to the U.S. Government."

Mr. Boland. Thank you. That is a rather positive direction. Let me ask you: This committee has received evidence indicating that [Castillo] was an integral part of the operation to supply Contra units in the field with weapons and ammunition, in the so-called Second supply operation. When did you first become aware of

[Castillo's] activities and from what source?

Mr. George. There was great concern as the amendment was modified over the years as to what we were allowed to do, and I think we were very cautious and very careful to read——

Mr. Boland. Was there really any great concern in that period, from October 1984 to October of 1986 with respect to the kind of activities [Castillo] was engaged in in [deleted]?

Mr. George. Chairman Boland, yes, sir. Yes. There was no other

issue that we worried more about.

Mr. Boland. Would you quarrel with my description of what [Castillo]—that [Castillo] was engaged in what one could say was a military operation down there?

Mr. George. I would say that [Castillo's] activities were against

the procedures and the regulations of this directorate.

Mr. Boland. All right.

Mr. George. I would also—and I would—you haven't asked me, but there 's a lot to be said for [Castillo] and the problems that he faced.

Mr. Boland. Well, when did you first become aware of [Castillo's]

activities and from what source?

Mr. George. I first became aware of the fact that [Castillo] had a radio and was transmitting independent information to Oliver North in late October 1986. I became aware in the summer that [Castillo] had possible—had one or two direct contacts by telephone with the private benefactors in [deleted].

Mr. Boland. How did you learn this information?
Mr. George. I learned the information about his contacts with the people in [deleted] from [C/CATF], who had just returned from a trip to Central America where he had found out either directly from [Castillo] or from [Castillo's] associates.

Mr. Boland. I take it [C/CATF] informed you?

Mr. George. He informed me of everything. Mr. Boland. Did you inform Mr. Casey of [Castillo's] activities?

Mr. George. I certainly did.

Mr. Boland. Colonel North testified that he thought you were

aware of his Contra activities while they were ongoing.

Mr. George. Mr. Boland, I read that remark that Colonel North made about me. I would repeat what I have said previously. First of all, Colonel North was the National Security Council's point man in Central America. You dealt overtly and openly with Colonel North in Central America no matter what the issue was.

Mr. Boland. And you dealt with him frequently on the tele-

phone?

Mr. George. Yes, sir. It was my impression that Colonel North was aware of, if not involved in, some of the private benefactor ac-

tivity.

Mr. Boland. The testimony that the committees have is [Castillo] did not believe that his activities were secret, and he left the impression that anyone reading the cables would have been aware of precisely what he was doing, how he was doing it and at whose direction. If that is so, how do you account for [C/CATF] failure to provide you with information about them early on?

Mr. George. I think there is some question as to—there is a debatable point as to whether [C/CATF]—excuse me, [Castillo's] traffic, his telegrams and cables from [deleted], were explicit in the activities he was engaged in, and I have not made a study of those cables, and we have them, and they are in your possession. And I

would sit down with you, sir, or anybody on the staff. I am not sure it is as clear as you describe it.

I would like to make a point about [Castillo]. He is an outstand-

ing Central Intelligence Agency case officer.

Mr. BOLAND. And believable?

Mr. George. He is a friend of mine. [Castillo] became emotionally involved in a situation which I am not sure any of us can

handle, and that is the pressure of lives of people in a war.

Secondly, [Castillo] faced something of interest to me that no one in the history of the American spy service has ever faced, and that is that you get someone to arrive at your [deleted] and say, "I have been sent there by the White House, and I have a whole different set of rules for you in addition to the ones from the CIA." I think [Castillo] was put in an absolutely impossible situation.

Yes, he did violate the procedures of our organization, but there

is ameliorating factors in that.

Mr. Boland. Did you or did [C/CATF] ever give [Castillo] reason to believe that you intended to look the other way concerning his involvement with the North-Second operation?

Mr. George. Absolutely not.

Mr. Boland. You testified in your deposition that you had been instrumental in placing [C/CATF] in the job as Chief of the Central American Task Force.

Mr. George. Correct, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Boland. [C/CATF] was a CIA representative on the RIG on Central America, and North represented the NSC.

Mr. George. That is correct, sir.

Mr. Boland. You knew North from your days in Congressional affairs. What did you tell [C/CATF] about North? When you put [C/CATF] on as the Chief of the Central American Task Force, you had some personal knowledge of the personality of North. Did

vou---

Mr. George. I told—John McMahon and I went to Casey and told him the time had come to bring new leadership into the Latin American Division in the Central American Task Force. We told him that the strongest, most capable, most accomplished officer who could run what was going to be our most difficult job, which it has been, was [C/CATF], although he had had no experience in Latin America. When he took that job, I am sure I told him that Oliver North was a very powerful, very strong, hyperactive, busy, active man in Centeral America and that he had to watch it because in the fall of 1984, both of these players were walking through the same territory doing different things, as we now know.

Mr. Boland. Did [C/CATF] keep you informed about the activities of the RIG? Did he ever mention information to you North might have disclosed about his activities on behalf of the Contras?

Mr. George. The information, as described to this committee or associated with this committee's hearings, that somehow Colonel North advised the RIG of his activities in some detail, I do not believe, in the context of the RIG that [C/CATF] attended.

[C/CATF] kept me advised of the briefings at RIGs and never under any occasion in those 2½ years did he say Ollie North sat down and briefed us about all his activities in Central America.

Mr. Boland. You testified, I think, today that you had some understanding of the kinds of things that North was doing for the Contras. What was the basis for your understanding of the kind of

things he was doing?

Mr. George. Mr. Chairman, I don't mean to be in any way less than fair. I find it amazing that anyone in this town who claims that they were involved, watched, followed or were concerned with Central America would then be shocked to find out that Oliver North was deeply engaged down there. It was a matter of public newspaper record.

Mr. Boland. Yes, but what I am asking, the question is about the kind of things that North was doing for the Contras, and the

reason, of course, the question is obvious, whether or not-

Mr. George. My final assumption was that Colonel North somehow, somewhere, someplace, some way was engaged in seeking support or knew about the seeking of private support for lethal aid to the Contras, which would have been directly in opposition to your amendment of 1984.

Mr. Boland. But the CIA was helping him? Mr. GEORGE. The CIA was not helping him.

Mr. Boland. Obviously the CIA was helping him in [deleted]?

Mr. George. I did not know that.

Mr. Boland. That was his operation. Mr. George. I did not know that.

Mr. Boland. This was pursued with Duane Clarridge, and let me pursue it with you, and I am sure you will have an answer that will be satisfactory.

Did Mr. Casey, or to your knowledge, any other CIA official, ever discuss approaching [deleted] with a proposal in which they would support the Contras during the pendency of the Boland Amend-

ments in exchange for [deleted]?

Mr. George. There is a very famous trip of Mr. Clarridge to [deleted] in the spring of 1984. I am told, I have not read the cable traffic, this committee has it, that there was an indication that Mr. Clarridge was to discuss with [deleted] the general situation in

Latin America, and [deleted].

I am also told there was a countermanding cable sent by Mr. McMahon which said you will not do that. I would only say that at the time that I was not involved with this directorate, I had a job outside—I was Director of Congressional Relations. I did not know that event. After I returned to this directorate, the first of July, 1984, Mr. Chairman, I have no knowledge of any occasion when we ever discussed with [deleted] help the Contras.

Mr. Boland. With respect to the Hasenfus shootdown and also your appearance before the House Select Committee on Intelligence—on October 14, 1986, after the downing of the aircraft, you and [C/CATF] and Secretary Abrams briefed the House Permanent

Select Committees on Intelligence.

Mr. George. We did.

Mr. Boland. You made a categorical statement, you have done it today, and in your deposition, denying any direct or indirect CIA involvement with arranging, facilitating, or directing the resupply missions and indicating that the CIA had no knowledge of the resupply operation.

Had you discussed the statement you were about to make to the committee with [C/CATF] prior to your appearance before the committee?

Mr. George. I do not recall talking in detail about that specific

categorical statement with [C/CATF].

Mr. Boland, And he didn't mention [Castillo's] activities to you

Mr. George. I don't think we had any idea of the size of [Castil-

lo's activities until after that hearing—is that correct?

Mr. Boland. Had the Central American [deleted] been contacted for information on the Hasenfus flight prior to your appearance before the committee?

Mr. George. If you will excuse me, I will ask.

[Counsel conferring with witness.]

Mr. George. We asked all our [deleted] what, if anything, they knew about the Hasenfus flight after it went down, and they all replied they knew absolutely nothing.

Mr. Boland. Was that [Castillo's] report to you too? Mr. George. Yes, sir.

Mr. Boland. The resupply operation had been going on—there were a number of flights prior to the October 6th shootdown of the Hasenfus plane.

Mr. George. Yes, sir.

Mr. Boland. Because the resupply operation, by that method, started sometime I think in April of 1986—are you telling me that [Castillo] had no information with respect to that operation vis-a-vis a military operation, finding out where to drop the supplies, where they were going, and then getting in touch with the Contras or with Colonel North on the communication equipment that was supplied to him by Colonel North?
Mr. George. You know, after the fact, he did have contact with

the private benefactors and with Colonel North.

Mr. Boland. Is it your testimony that when you appeared before the committee, the CIA had no knowledge of who was involved in the resupply operation?

Mr. George. I could not state it that way, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Boland. Put it any way you want.

Mr. George. The CIA had general knowledge of the resupply op-

eration. [Deleted]. We knew they were down there.

The private benefactors had arrived in force in late 1985 and early 1986. We knew they were there and what they were doing, and over and over we sent telegrams and cables and telegrams to our people to stay away from them because we could have nothing to do with that operation. That other—here is where I get myself in trouble—other than what we were allowed to do under the Boland Amendment, which allowed us to provide intelligence to them and other such support.

Mr. Boland. Let me turn to another question. Secretary Shultz testified that information available to him caused him to conclude that the Government of Iran had absolute control over the hostagetakers. What degree of control did the CIA believe the Government

of Iran exercised over the hostage-takers?

Mr. George. A great deal, but not all, and it was our judgment, which we passed regularly when asked, that under no conditions would the Government of Iran ever, ever allow all the hostages to be released, nor will they ever all be released because the only leverage that those who hold the hostages have is the hostages, and so why would they give them up?

Mr. BOLAND. Clair, you have had a long experience with the

CIA—what, 32, 33 years?

Mr. George. Thirty-two years.

Mr. Boland. Almost as long as I have been sitting in this Congress. In the time that you appeared before the committee, when I chaired the House committee, I found you to be believable when the right questions were asked, and that is one of the problems I think that we experience all the time on both committees.

But in any event, I must say that the experience that you have given to the intelligence community over those years I think has been invaluable to the Government in many respects, and I thank

you for being with us today and wish you well.

Mr. George. May I say, sir, that it was under your years as chairman of the HPSCI that, starting in 1978 and going up until the time we left, that we rebuilt the intelligence community, and we are deeply grateful to you personally for what you have done for us.

Mr. Boland. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hamilton. Let me remind members and all present again that this is an executive session. We have been hearing from Mr. George some very sensitive matters, and the rules of both committees require that none of this information go beyond this room.

The Senate is meeting in the anteroom now, and, Mr. George, I think it might be helpful for the record if you identify the CIA per-

sonnel here in the room.

Mr. George. At the far end with the beard is John Rizzo, the Deputy Director of our office of Congressional affairs. To his right would be [deleted]. He is the lawyer that I put in the Central American Task Force from 1984 to 1985 to try as best we can to follow the Boland Amendments. [Deleted] has been my lawyer there. Kathleen McGinn, a representative of the Office of the General Counsel; [deleted], Office of General Counsel; my personal staff aid, [deleted]; and from the White House, Dean McGrath.

Mr. Boland. Who is minding the store?

Chairman Hamilton. Thank you very much. We will have a 10-minute recess.

Brief recess.

Chairman Hamilton. The Joint Committees will come to order. I am told that the Senate meeting, which is now taking place in the anteroom, will break up shortly, and we will go ahead and proceed.

Mr. Courter is recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. Courter. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Good morning, Mr. George. You indicated in your testimony earlier this morning that [Castillo], as far as you are concerned, violated CIA procedures and regulations, and I just want a clarification of that. I wanted to know, and I am sure you are familiar with a General Counsel's opinion in CIA indicating that [Castillo's] activity was not a violation of the Boland Amendment——

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. COURTER. I wanted to make sure that when you indicated violation of CIA regulations you were not referring to the Boland

Amendment?

Mr. George. Yes, I am informed that from a legal point of view, [Castillo's] activities are debatable if they were illegal. My only point was that our policy, as issued from my directorate, was to not have contact with the private benefactors in the manner in which he did. As I said before, I have great sympathy and great understanding for [Castillo].

Mr. COURTER. Are you familiar with that opinion by George

Jameson, Associate General Counsel? Have you read it?

Mr. George. About [Castillo]; I believe I did read that, sir. Mr. Courter. Do you generally subscribe to its conclusions?

Mr. George. I am not a lawyer, but he is my legal adviser. I would have to subscribe to those conclusions.

Mr. COURTER. Mr. Chairman, I just want to make sure, is this legal opinion part of the record?

Chairman Hamilton. Is that part of the exhibits?

Mr. Courter. I don't know.

Chairman Hamilton. We will make it part of the record, without objection.

Mr. Courter. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate

that.

There has been testimony and also other evidence to the fact that Bill Buckley, [deleted], was captured and also tortured and died. Were you familiar with that?

Mr. George. Terribly familiar, probably as familiar as anybody

in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mr. COURTER. Was Bill Casey, the Director of Intelligence, famil-

iar with that event?

Mr. George. Very concerned, very familiar, an issue on Mr. Casey's, Mr. McMahon's and my plate every day of the week of every month of that horror from February 1984 until final confirmation that he was dead.

Mr. Courter. Do you believe that his capture and torture was something that influenced Bill Casey's activities with respect to his desire to continue the Iranian initiative for the release of hostages?

Mr. George. It could have been. Bill felt—the Director felt very strongly about this, as we know, and I happen to be proved personally, [deleted]. I cannot exaggerate to you—I am obviously not totally knowledgeable of the impact of the hostage affair on Casey—and from my reading—I do not personally deal with the President—but I think we must all assume and accept the President's deep, very human, concern—you know, I am—I don't know what you do in a situation like this. Again, here is poor Oliver North—the families of the hostages are, as I would hope my family and yours, are beating at the door of the White House demanding someone do something about their sons or their brothers or their husbands.

I think, frankly, the mistake was made—the mistake was really made to have allowed those families into the Oval Office to see the President. That is just too much for the President. I know on several occasions that happened, and I have been informed by those who were there it was extremely difficult. So politics aside, one must ab-

solutely recognize that throughout that period, from early 1984 until November of 1986 and it is still a concern of ours, and we work it as hard as we can, but at this moment howages played a big, big role in the thinking on the part of the President and Bill Casev.

[Deleted].

Mr. Courter. Let me pass on from that to your testimony that you gave on Tuesday, October 14, 1986, before the House Select Committee on Intelligence. My good friend, Congressman Ed Boland, indicated that he had had and enjoyed a long and constructive working relationship with you, Mr. George, and he is convinced that if the right questions having been asked, the right answers would have been given, and that just kind of underscores his fairness, I think. I was not there at the time.

My view, very frankly, is the fact that the right questions were asked and the wrong answers were given. Maybe I am the wrong one to judge that, not having been there and seen the questions asked, but reading the transcript, I get the feeling that when you and the other two individuals testified on that day, Elliott Abrams

was one of the others, and [C/CATF] was the other——Mr. George. That is correct, there were three of us.

Mr. Courter. That there was a clear effort on your behalf that resulted in the committee being misled, and the answers to the questions would, in my mind, be similar to the types of answers that I would give if I were someplace being interrogated by hostile people rather than friendly people.

The question I have—this is my opinion, of course—the question I have is whether there was a feeling in your own mind that you were uncomfortable in leaving the committee with the impressions that you knew—that I believe you knew at that time to be false.

Mr. George. I mentioned previously very slightly to Senator-Cohen—I apologize certainly to him and all of you for any indication that I was misleading that committee. My intent, which may or may not excuse me, was above all, as I said earlier, almost to the point of megalomania, to make the point that the Central Intelligence Agency as an entity was not involved. I was so concerned about us, the CIA, as I testified, have been so concerned about our

Operations Directorate since 1984.

I later found out about [Castillo], which is another subject, and we corrected the record, but that doesn't answer your problem. The problem is that when the Assistant Secretary of State for Central American Regional Activities testified categorically that no one in the U.S. Government knows anything whatsoever, at all, about the support to the Contras, where I had suspected on from the fall of 1984, that there was some indirect connection on the part of the National Security Council, I was never totally aware of how it worked, I don't picture myself as a witness, and I have been a witness off and on, sir, for 8 years, interrupting someone and saying that is not right.

I think Senator Cohen or someone said to me, what I would agree with—I owed—what I owed was a telephone call to Elliott Abrams saying, "Elliott, if you don't know the way it is, that is not the way it is. I don't know what it is, but you shouldn't run

around Washington categorically stating that nobody nowhere at all anywhere in any way is supporting the Contras."

I did not do that, and I can only say I would never—there were later comments in the press I had lied—I don't lie, and I did not mean to lie.

Mr. Courter. Mr. George, at that time, October, 1986, you knew that, at least according to your testimony today, that [Castillo] had

dealt directly on occasion-

Mr. George. I didn't until after the testimony, Mr. Courter. I knew that [Castillo] had had some direct contacts with the private benefactors in [deleted] and [deleted], which was against the interpretation of Boland 4, in which those contacts to pass intelligence would have to go through [deleted]. I did not know [Castillo]—excuse me—[deleted] remined me that went against the law, it was against the policy. I did not know, sir, until after the testimony of 14 October 1986, before the HPSCI that [Castillo] had the radio and had been in direct contact with Colonel North.

Mr. Courter. Is your—and this is I think an important question, although you may not think it is such—is your understanding of your responsibility to your department, to the government and in testifying fully and completely before committees in Congress—do you think it goes to the extent that if unwittingly you misled a committee, but subsequent thereto found out information that gave clarity to your own mind that your prior testimony had been false, although not false as far as you were concerned, do you think that your obligation goes so far as to compel you to contact the committee and inform them of the additional information?

Mr. George. Absolutely. As far as the [Castillo] testimony—these are two things now, there is the Elliott Abrams problem and the [Castillo] problem, there are my statements about the CIA and Elliott's statements about the U.S. Government—the institution at my behest corrected the record of my statement about the Agency, and I feel comfortable with that. I would not pretend to feel comfortable about the fact that I did not react quickly either with the

committee or with Mr. Abrams to question his testimony.

Mr. Courter. There are two areas where I believe that very important people in the administration, including the Fresident and the various Secretaries, seem to have differences of opinion, those opinions obviously being based on intelligence. Some of that intelligence may have come from CIA, some from DIA, some from other sources. But one was an apparent feeling in the President's mind that during the time of the weapons sale, particularly in 1986, that Iran was either stalemated or losing their war effort against Iraq, whereas the Secretary of Defense said that clearly was not the case.

The other, there seems to be a split on the intelligence with respect to whether there were such things as pragmatists or moderates or people you could approach in Iran, the President feeling that there was, and once again Secretary of Defense Weinberger believing that there was not.

In your opinion, and based on the information you have, was the intelligence gathered by the CIA and provided to appropriate sources by the CIA consistent to which one of those areas—number one, on whether there were moderates or pragmatists or just all

radicals over there; and, second, on who was winning the war effort?

Mr. George. Let me take the war effort first. My Director is not the purveyor of finished intelligence to the community, as we call it, read the President and his men. My Director, however, is a collector of intelligence on this situation in that war, [deleted]. There is no doubt in my mind, nor was there any doubt in the policy-maker's minds in 1984, 1985, and 1986 that the country that was in danger was Iraq. The belief was that Iran held the superior manpower and the ability to last longer, [deleted].

power and the ability to last longer, [deleted].

And at no time was I told by the White House, the State Department, the Defense Department, the Director of CIA or anyone else, [deleted], that their opinion was anything other than Iraq was the

weaker party in the war.

Mr. Courter. Do you have any idea where the President might

have received this type of information?

Mr. George. From the press and from your hearings, I know of what you speak—I do not know. If he was being told that the Iranians were in trouble, maybe—I do not pretend to be the ultimate judge of the war, [deleted].

[Deleted].

Mr. COURTER. Based on CIA's intelligence, do you take the Shultz view, that there are pragmatists in Iran, or the Weinberger view

that they are all killed?

Mr. George. Well, they were certainly not all killed. The generalization, are there any pragmatists in Iran—does anybody play the piano in the Fiji Islands—yes, somewhere. I am not sure that is what you are looking for. What you are looking for is someone who—with whom you can open a dialogue and talk to them about the possibility of meeting common accommodation on overall inter-

national affairs and political problems.

With all the hell that we have been through since last November, and I am some guy in the CIA, I think there are people you could talk to, if you could get to them. There are people whose interests are not to continue the way it is going, and I think the second channel, which is the way it has been described to this committee and to the public, this was after Ghorbanifar got thrown out, and we got in touch with [deleted], if this hadn't happened and we broke off, [deleted]. We shouldn't all sit around and say he is a moderate or democrat or good guy or socialist, or whatever, what can he do for us?

Mr. Courter. Lastly, could you tell us what you know about the DEA-proposed operation for the release of the hostages in 1985, whether Ross Perot was involved—what do you know about that

operation?

Mr. George. Let me give a brief introduction. My approach to hostage handling, and I have been in and out of the game since 1975 [deleted] and I am not an expert, but I guess I know a little bit, is what you have read. You open a dialogue with the hostage holders no matter how rotten they are. You find the bad guys, and you start talking to them. It was evident in the early 1970s and became accepted and called by us who were in the government, the Kissinger position, that you would never trade for hostages, but you would always talk and talk.

Beginning in 1984, when the great burst of early hostages were taken, Mr. Levin, Mr. Andersen, Mr. Jacobsen, Mr. Sutherland, Bill Buckley, the original hostage crowd, we began to receive feelers. It is a brutal, ugly story, but people were selling information, selling hostages, selling their rings, selling their clothes, selling letters from them trying to make money out of the hostage business.

Our position was, is, and I think should be to followup on everything. This does not mean ransoming hostages, this means trying to find out who you are dealing with, does this person know something? This was sort of a hit and miss activity inside the U.S. Government and everybody was running around doing their thing until late 1984, when it was decided to establish the Hostage locating, Location Task Force.

The only purpose—other than the CIA, the State Department, the Defense Department, let's bring in a lot of guys who might know something, Customs, INS, Commerce, DEA, let's get a band of guys representing all the government agencies and make sure anybody who has any possibility of knowledge about the hostages

sit down together.

In the spring of 1984, 1985—counsel, correct me. Is it 1985, the DEA affair?

Mr. Kerr. Yes.

Mr. George. In 1985, the Drug Enforcement Agency notified the Hostage Location Task Force that they had sources [deleted] who also might have information and/or [deleted] the American hostages. The right answer to that is OK, what have you got?

So the discussion which again is very typical of all these operations is well, I can get you the ring, the photo, the letter, the picture of the man with today's paper, but it will cost money. And I make the difference in my own mind that this is different than ransoming, \$2 million and I will deliver the body. [Deleted]. And the DEA assured me or they assured us that they had been successful in [deleted], that they would go [deleted] and bring back evidence that they could get in touch with the hostages. [Deleted].

Deleted].

Well, this was hocus pocus. I asked my experts [deleted] and we came to the decision that they were—it was a scam. No big surprise. There was nothing to get excited about. We were scammed regularly on the hostage business and others. This was a scam. [De-

leted]. This is life.

I now know, that that decision was not agreed to by other people. I think—at the time I remember talking to a man he called Hickey, who was head of the President's security inside the White House, very hot on this operation. I know Mr. Hickey continued to believe it was a good idea. I know, of course, now that Oliver North thought it was a good idea. I know Oliver North got the two DEA men to him, I believe he claims he had \$2 million from where? I'm sorry. Ross Perot, I don't know. I was gone. I had left it. I had declared it a fake.

Mr. Courter. Thank you.

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Boren is recognized for 20 min-

Mr. Boren. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I apologize. I have been tied up with meetings on the Central American meeting or initiative and I had to miss some of this testimony, but I will read it all very carefully and try not to repeat what others have asked.

Mr. George. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Boren. Mr. George, when did you learn of the impending announcement by Attorney General Meese that he had uncovered evidence of the diversion? When did you learn about the impending

press conference?

Mr. George. The announcement? I am told by [C/CATF] I had mentioned it to him that morning. If I mentioned it to him that morning, Senator, I would have known that morning. I mean it would have been hours before. Quite how I might have known, I don't know. I was certainly not sitting around for weeks saying—

Mr. Boren. So far as you know it was probably the same day? Mr. George. The same moment. [C/CATF] told me. [C/CATF] said to me, Clair, you told me that afternoon or just before the press conference. I don't know how, but it was then, sir, at that

moment.

Mr. Boren. Did you have any discussions after that time once you had known about the diversion and—the other items announced in the Attorney General's press conference? Did you have any discussion with anyone about your testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, between the time you learned about it, the Attorney General's announcement, and the time you appeared before the Intelligence Committee in December to testify? Did you have any discussions about the scope of your testimony, what you were likely to be asked or what you should say or how much you should answer?

Mr. George. No, sir. I didn't. I think we were all very, very shaken, as you remember, Senator Boren. We had—we were suddenly told that we were all going to appear privately before the Senate Select committee. We were going to be giving sworn testimony. We were told we could not bring lawyers with us. We were told that the subjects were not to be discussed afterwards and we were not to be briefed. I think we were—I guess big boys shouldn't say it. We were frightened.

But that was about the size of it.

Mr. Boren. Would the same be true for your—between the time that you learned of these activities as announced by the Attorney General and your testimony before the Tower Board and your testi-

mony before this committee?

Mr. George. I had a period between the testimony before, I guess Senator Durenberger was chairman, the committee and the Tower Board. I was out of work for 5 weeks. I was in the hospital and had a serious operation. So I sort of had a blank period. I came roaring back to work in January and I think I got in to see Tower early February. I forget the exact dates.

But I was really out of commission. I don't remember talking

much about this at all in that period.

Mr. Boren. Do you recall anyone giving you any suggestions about restraining the scope of your testimony?

Mr. George. Oh, never.

Mr. Boren. In regard to [Castillo], didn't the CIA headquarters really leave [Castillo] in a very difficult position in regard to orders

to drop the communications plan and stay away from the private benefactors? What I am thinking of here is if he complied with the orders of the headquarters, all he could do then was sort of sit by and watch the Contra resupply flights get shot down or crash without the help of information.

Wasn't that just sort of a copout by those at headquarters, sort

of washing their hands of it?

Mr. George. We put [Castillo]—I did mention this earlier—[Castillo] in the world's most difficult situation, all of us. I would again like to say for the record, for [Castillo] and [Castillo's] behalf, that [Castillo] is a brilliant intelligence officer. He was my finest [deleted]. He has a magnificent ability to do our business. We sent him to [deleted]. You know the story as well as I. He's sitting there watching supply flights, people being shot, the wounded coming

out, radio calls for help.

Yes, in a bureaucratic sense we really are—I mean, we put out a notice, don't help anybody. We asked the impossible. If I would have been [Castillo], I probably would have done the same thing. I think the interesting thing about [Castillo], and I said this before and I say it again, because I think it's very important. Never before in the history of our service has a senior official been approached by somebody outside the service representing the U.S. Government at the highest levels, read, Oliver North, I am here on behalf of the National Security Council, and asked to set up independent communications.

But yes, [Castillo] was put in an absolutely difficult situation.

Mr. Boren. I appreciate the candor of your answer. When the Inspector General of the CIA began the investigation of the [Castillo] activities, what was your role in setting up that investigation?

Mr. George. I was again—if I recall—and I can get the record, I don't want to cop out—that was the hospital period. I left—the first of December, give or take, and returned in late January. I am told

that the whole thing broke in the December-January period.

Not to avoid a critical point here, I think all of this went along without anybody charging [Castillo] violated the law. What do you violate legally, the Boland Amendment? It was policy. Nobody is going to get beaten around the ears for policy. I think at this point the question with [Castillo] is—and I have been taken out of it, it's a General Counsel, IG, Inspector General activity. I know about [Castillo's] activity at certain periods of time.

Mr. Boren. Let me say it's my recollection—so you do not believe that at least you were involved at the inception of the IG investiga-

tion—that's during the time you were in the hospital.

Mr. George. It would be very normal for me to—excuse me. In the middle of January 1987, [deleted] indicated that [Castillo] had been engaged in illegal activities. [Deleted] informs me I didn't know. Excuse me for having to seek help. That Bob Gates asked for an IG inspection.

Mr. Boren. You weren't particularly involved?

Mr. George. I don't think I was back to work at that point. I think I would have done the same thing. That's where I was headed.

Mr. Boren. It's my recollection that [Castillo] indicated that he had some conversation with you or with someone working under

you in the Agency that indicated to him what they thought the scope of the questioning by the IG would be.

Mr. George. Yes. I know that story.

Mr. Boren. When he then was asked by the IG questions going beyond the scope he thought it was going to be, that's partly what

led him to not give complete answers?

Mr. George. There are two stories. The story I am more familiar with is that he said he was instructed by his Division Chief, who he believed to have been instructed by me, to limit his testimony to the Tower Commission to certain specific fields.

Mr. Boren. Yes. That's correct. Is that accurate?

Mr. George. The issue was—and it's not correct. The only thing ever brought to my attention before [Castillo's] appearance in the Tower Board—and this is one of the first times we were going to go outside the confines of the intelligence committees. We were going to talk to—not that Mr. Scowcroft, and Tower are strangers. We said if you have trouble with sources and methods—which is true in all our hearings—blow a whistle, ask for a time out. We will get it straightened out.

As far as being told what to tell the IG, I would never in a million years say to an officer—I would say if you have great trouble with the IG, come back to my office and I will try to sort it out.

But I would never say don't discuss this, that, and that.

Mr. Boren. With the IG.

What is your assessment of why he was not fully forthcoming with the IG on these matters?

Mr. George. I am not sure I know he wasn't forthcoming with the IG. I think—and [deleted] help me—it's my understanding—I don't want to draw any conclusions, because I don't know that he was

not forthcoming with the Tower Board.

Mr. Boren. Let me make it easier for you. Not the Tower Board. The IG. He himself told us he was not forthcoming with the IG in the first interviews. He said the reason he wasn't was he was asked questions that really surpised him beyond the scope of what he had been told he would likely be asked.

Mr. George. [Deleted], who is the legal counsel of the Central

American Task Force, if you don't mind. [Deleted].

[Deleted]. May I tell you? The day he went up to see the IG, I showed him the 29th of December response that was sent to the HPSCI and later sent to the SSCI. I said they are likely to talk to you about this [Castillo], and I need to tell you also that when you spoke with me in December in [deleted], you told me about the KL-43. That's likely to come up and the relationship with the—with Colonel North. It was clear to him the scope of it was beyond this response, but I wanted him to know what had already been shown but that that was not just the only thing that might come up in this discussion.

Mr. George. I did not, Senator Boren, talk to him about his IG

testimony.

Mr. Boren. Let me ask a summary question on this. While you understood he was in a very difficult spot, you expressed your sympathy for the difficult spot. It would be your testimony that you did not, you feel, by any actions, words, actions you took, conversations

you had, indicate to him that he should not be forthcoming in his testimony?

Mr. George. Never, under any conditions.

Mr. Boren. In February of 1987, [C/CATF] and you took a trip to [deleted]?

Mr. George. That's quite right.

Mr. Boren. Why did you take that trip?

Mr. George. I planned to take it. I had not been in Central America for 2 years. It's a critical problem to us. I had hoped to go down in the fall. Bill Casey announced he wanted to go back that fall. That was the famous trip he was on when all of this blew up. I said to [C/CATF], maybe we'll go in early December. I went to the hospital. Got out of the hospital. The earliest I could get there having decided to make the trip in November, December, was the first of February. By that time, my goal was no longer exclusively to—I am sort of the boss. [Deleted] in the most important area of the world. At that point I—it was absolute for me, because [Castillo] had had his problem. [Castillo] was out of Central America. The gossip was spreading like wildfire. Our organization is an outfit where the gossip goes night and day, who is doing what to whom, we all know that. I wanted to tell the [Castillo] story as factually as I could tell it and urge every [deleted] to be frank and honest and fair and truthful with the investigations being conducted by the Inspector General.

And I must say, if I don't have less than 200 witnesses, I'm kidding myself. I gave that speech like a stump man from [deleted] to

[deleted].

Mr. BOREN. While you were on this trip, did you learn anything about the [deleted] helicopter usage, what's been referred to as the

[deleted] and [deleted] matter?

Mr. George. There are two [deleted] activities. Let me address the [deleted] and [deleted] matter which is a puzzlement as they said. On one of the days I was in [deleted], [deleted], who is [deleted] and as such in charge of the war effort arranged a helicopter flight for [deleted] me to visit certain sites [deleted]. There was [deleted], the pilot, [deleted], myself, and I'm sure somebody else. We flew down to [deleted], were there 2 hours, [deleted].

[Deleted].

I have now been on the road, on the ground, in the air for 8 hours and it's hot and it's dusty. I am then taken into a shed

where [deleted].

I am then introduced to [deleted] who I shook their hands. I now know, sir, that their names were [deleted] and [deleted]. I told them that we were proud of them, that their government was proud of them, their agency was proud of them, to carry on the good work, and on, by the way, if the IG ever shows up [deleted], for God's sakes tell him the truth.

I got back to Washington and was told that one of these guys said I had a 2-hour discussion with him about the Mrazek amendment, the Boland three, and arms movements to the border. I am sorry. I am exaggerating but this story is totally beyond my understanding.

Mr. Boren. You don't recall any conversation while you were in

[deleted] about the helicopters carrying arms?

Mr. George. Never. My other story, which is even sadder, which is a sad story and not sort of an amusing story, is that [deleted] under [deleted], because here comes the boss inviting me in for breakfast and they were all there. There was 20 of these paramilitary guys in their boots and all the rest. We have a nice breakfast. We all talk. I give them a speech about the essentialness to this agency of everybody confessing up to anything they know and they all saluted me and they all told me they would and, of course, we now know that that was dear [deleted] and his crowd and it was never mentioned to me.

Mr. Boren. It was not mentioned to you?

Mr. George. No.

Mr. Boren. When was the IG investigation into the [deleted] matter?

Mr. George. It was almost immediately thereafter. I get back from that trip, I guess in, say, mid-February, late February, and we had an endless series of phone calls I know particularly from Senator Bradley's office. Senator Bradley and his staffer, Mr. John Dupris, kept calling and saying what did Clair George learn down there. We kept calling back and saying Clair is—has either gone crazy or is not telling the truth. Clair doesn't know what he learned down there. It was soon after that that [deleted], I believe—and correct me, [deleted]—[deleted] having been brought up or coming up started to open the crack on a door which led to the situation.

Mr. Boren. It was [deleted] that came up?

You didn't come back then from [deleted] and say we need to

start an IG investigation?

Mr. George. It was a very puzzling affair. Senator Bradley and his staffer called me over and over again saying what did I learn.

Mr. Boren. There were press reports going on [deleted]——

Mr. George. Excuse me one second.

[Deleted] reminds me there was an IG inspection planned al-

ready to go down there but that had nothing to do with that.

Mr. Boren. You didn't come back—I want to be clear. When you came back, you didn't come back with any knowledge that something was wrong in [deleted] with the helicopters carrying arms? And you didn't then ask or initiate, say to the IG you better go down and look at that?

Mr. George. Absolutely not. The IG was going anyway. We were doing one more review of Central America. In fact, if you had asked me—which goes to show you how little we know sometimes in life—if all was well in [deleted], I would have told you it is.

Mr. Boren. Let me ask: In the questions before the Senate Intelligence Committee in December, when you testified under oath, let me read you two questions here and your answers. I'll try to get you the page number. I think they are short. Page 19. Mr. Hall asked you, "Were you aware of any role that Colonel North played?

"Mr. George. I have no information on Colonel North and

funds."

"Mr. Hall: Can you tell us what role Secord did play?" He is talking about this in the supply operation.

"Mr. George: I cannot."

Let me see. You went on to say in regard to General Secord. "I am told—and I do not want to have my hand held in the fire—that at one point, at some point along the way it moved through the hands of General Secord."

Mr. George. Excuse me. I missed that. Mr. Boren. You said, "I am told—and I do not want to have my hand held in the fire—that at one point, at some—along the way, it moved through the hands of General Second but I don't have that evidence."

Mr. George. What moved?

Mr. Boren. Funds. Funds and supplies.

Mr. George. We are talking about—the Contras or the Iranian thing?

Mr. Boren. On the Iran program.

Mr. George. I knew Secord was in the Iran program. I met Secord months before in the White House.

Mr. Boren. As I understand, you later gave testimony about the fact you talked with General Secord after that Finding was signed when there was a discussion about him and what his role would be.

Mr. George. Oh, no. General Secord was in the White House Situation room on Saturday morning, the 18th of January, and was introduced to me by John Poindexter as a consultant to the National Security Council. I believe my testimony to your committee at that time and since then has been it was my judgment that the reason this action was taken this way was to provide his bonafides, that here he stands, like him or not, this is Secord and he's now part of this game, whether you like it or don't like it.

Secord and I never, ever sat down anywhere ever and discussed

this operation.

Mr. Boren. You didn't say to the—you didn't tell the committee

anything about—did you, about being at the White House?

Mr. George. Oh, yes. I did. I have never denied meeting Secord on Saturday morning the 18th. I mean, if I didn't tell them, I should have told them.

Mr. Boren. Well, and this comment about were you aware of any role Colonel North played, you said, I have no information about

Colonel North and funds.

Mr. George. I didn't have information on—see, my feeling about this exercise was that the money went from Iran to Israel and Israel would put it in the bank, our bank, our account in Switzerland. I now know what you thankfully have told us that it went through Ghorbanifar, it went through Secord, it went all over the place. But I didn't know that.

Mr. Boren. Let me ask you one last question. I see my time is

up.

Mr. George. Please.

Mr. Boren. Can you recall your preparation for Mr. Casey's testimony before the SSCI and what discussions you had with Mr. Gates or others about that testimony?

Mr. George. Certainly.

Mr. Boren. Whether or not you suggested any changes in it?

Mr. George. Let me recall my involvement in that testimony. I don't have the dates correct, but we are talking vaguely of the 17th

through the 26th, that whole period.

When the story broke that McFarlane had had meetings in Tehran and the entire thing became public and before the Attorney General's statement of the diversion, it became accepted in the Agency that we would have to moderately brief on our activities. It was intolerable for us in the situation, above all with you, the Congress.

I conducted what I believe to be—and I don't know if any of the staffers are here, maybe Mr. O'Neil—the first briefing by the Executive Branch of the legislative branch, which was a briefing on say, the 17th or 18th of November, about our activities after the Find-

ing and what we did.

It was then decided—and quite how, I don't know, except that the White House called the CIA and said, you're going to do the briefings of the Congress on, you know, Bud McFarlane's trip. Read

that: this whole affair.

Bob Gates called, in my presence, Bill Casey in Central America and said I'm a big boy Bill, but would you please come back here? I mean, this is bigger than I am. I now know, again through this committee, that John Poindexter called Bill Casey and said please come back here.

My job at that point—and the record I believe shows it—was to put together the facts of this Directorate's activities inside—in this affair, and we put together—because we have the record and it's a written record and it is an exact record—the exact record of this Operation Directorate's participation in the activities we engaged in from the Finding of the 17th until that date.

That information was then sent forward to one of the staff assistants in the front office—Bob was Acting Chief—Acting Director at the time—who then got information from all the other groups. Casey has by now asked that preliminary testimony be sent to him

on his trip back from Central America.

Correct me, [deleted], if I get these facts wrong. We flew someone to Central America and Casey began to study it. He came back. We had a big meeting in Casey's conference room with 20 or 30 people. It was evident that different people in the CIA had different pieces of information, and it was being collated

by staff aides.

I neither corrected nor changed nor overviewed. My position was throughout this entire—at one point we ended up in the White House, in Poindexter's office, where Mr. North arrived. I was there very briefly on my way somewhere else. Either North said or Poindexter said politely, your records don't match ours. I said, I don't care. Our records are exact. We know when we flew this operation or met this person.

Finally, those differences, I guess, were solved. But no, as to did I—Bill Casey was still writing that testimony in the car I'm told on

his way down the morning of whatever date that was.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Cheney is recognized.

Mr. Cheney. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I don't plan to use my time. I simply want to thank Mr. George for his testimony. My association with him over the years in the

Intelligence Committee has always been an excellent one. He has been very helpful, forthcoming and direct in all of his dealings with me. We appreciate very much his help and assistance to this committee.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Chairman Hamilton. Thank you.

To conclude the session this morning, I will recognize Senator

Sarbanes for 10 minutes.

Mr. Boren. Mr. Chairman, I have just one point. There was a document mentioned, I believe by legal counsel, during my questioning of Mr. George. I wondered if we could have that particular document entered into the record.

Mr. George. The [deleted] document.

Chairman Hamilton. Yes, indeed. The document will be made part of the record, without objection.

The information oppears at p. 1046.]

Chairman Hamilton. Senator Sarbanes is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. Sarbanes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. George, did I understand your response to Senator Boren that you didn't know General Second before you met him in the Situation Room at the White House-on the 19th of January?

Mr. George. That is absolutely correct. I knew of him, but I

didn't know him.

Mr. SARBANES. What did you know of him?

Mr. George. Well, I knew a great deal about him. The good General Secord's reputation inside the CIA was not of the highest. As I have testified previously, I had no evidence then, I have no evidence now—I have no knowledge of General Secord engaged in illegal activities, but General Secord worked the edges of the international arms market. General Secord worked the edges of those guys out there in the world who were buying and selling in the arms business.

He had been associated in an IG report of the CIA with Edwin Wilson, the famed renegade CIA agent who is now in Marion, Illinois and I know for a fact that he was in our minds, in my mind as a manager of the American clandestine service, an individual with whom I would not do business.

I will even go further and I maybe shouldn't, I went to Bill Casey soon after the famed Saturday, 18 January meeting and urged Bill Casey not—if they are going to do this, if they are going to ship arms to Iran for hostages, and that is a complicated moral question, don't use Secord. I told him very strongly.

Mr. Sarbanes. What reasons did you give Casey——

Mr. George. My knowledge of his involvement in what we considered to be not particularly wholesome—wholesome is a dumb word for a spy to use—particularly savory activities in the past, and he is mentioned in our Inspector General's report as being an associate. I had also read the book *Manhunt*, which is the second book. He was just not a guy I wanted to do business with.

Mr. SARBANES. How did you understand that Second got involved

in all of this? Did you have an understanding---

Mr. GRORGE. You want to know what I thought now or what I thought then—

Mr. SARBANES. Both.

Mr. George. I didn't have a damn clue how he got involved when I saw him in January of that year. I was surprised, shocked. Stan Sporkin, who was with me at this famous meeting and I understand it has testified to you. Stan and I agreed that this was a mistake and Stan and I went separately to Bill Casey to try to talk him out of it. That is what I knew then, it was a dumb idea. Now, how did it happen—because starting in 1984, I assume—I have no personal evidence—when Oliver North was given the thankless task of supporting the Contras or at least making sure they were supported, he turned to Secord. So by the time Secord was in the White House Situation Room in January 1986, Secord was probably—and I have no evidence of it—you may—I can't follow as closely as you do—already deeply engaged with Oliver North in the Contra affair, and he would be a natural to move right on to the Iranian affair.

Mr. SARBANES. North testified that Second in effect was sent to him by Casey?

Mr. George. I know that. I saw or heard that testimony.

Mr. SARBANES. What is your view of that?

Mr. George. I would doubt it.

Mr. SARBANES. Why?

Mr. George. Gut instinct, I know Bill Casey. If Casey sent Secord to North, someone else talked Casey into it. I don't know—why am I conjecturing?—I can't believe that Bill Casey sent Secord to North because if he did he had to send him in the summer of 1984, I think as I put it back together historically. Bill Casey knew the problems with Secord. The problem—the problem is that when whomever it was told Ollie North that he had one little task, all Ollie had to do was get money or make sure money was obtained, obtain arms, make sure arms are sent to Central America, get somebody to give private support to the benefactors. Those who charged North with that activity were grossly unfair, and who would walk into Ollie North's life first in the United States of America, you are not going to deal with foreigners, but Dick Secord who is in the international arms business and has experience in the U.S. Government in some version of clandestine activities.

Mr. SARBANES. Are you familiar with the testimony that Secord met with Casey around Christmas of 1985, about a month before you saw Secord in the Situation Room, to thank him for the work

he was doing and to say he did a good job?

Mr. George. I saw that on the television or read it. If he said that is what he did, I wouldn't be surprised Secord saw Casey. William Casey's door was an open door, he would receive anyone to talk to.

Whether Bill Casey saw Dick Secord to thank him for all the

wonderful things he had done, I don't know.

Mr. SARBANES. Did you have a report on Hakim—did you know

of Hakim's involvement in the Secord-Hakim Enterprise?

Mr. George. We knew Hakim was involved by the spring of 1986 after the Finding because as we were enjoined by the President to support this activity in [deleted] in the first or second meeting, I can get the record for you, who do we find as the Farsi-English interpreter—we don't find an American who works for our side that

we can sort of count on, we find some guy—some—I shouldn't call him some businessman from Switzerland—he holds a green card [deleted], but he is interpreting. I say hold it, at least I have to get an interpreter whom I know is my fellow American and that is when dear George Cave got involved.

Mr. SARBANES. What is the Agency's report or knowledge about

Hakim?

Mr. George. That he was a very successful, very prominent American, I think it is a naturalized American-Iranian businessman who had been in Tehran and had had dealings with the American Embassy, was well-known, had fled the country at the time of the fall of the Shah, had very important contacts, the kind of guy we deal with all over the world, may know somebody of importance, could pass us information, the kind of person we like to deal with, but not the person I would choose to be in the middle of a clandestine U.S. operation running it.

Mr. SARBANES. When you had that meeting in January in the White House when the CIA was brought into it, Secord was presented to you. What was your knowledge—you had knowledge of the previous shipment of arms to Iran; is that correct, through the

Israelis?

Mr. George. We knew about the shipment of November and there is a debate that counsel and I have gone through as to when we did or didn't believe it was oil-drilling equipment and the fact that it became more and more evident as the crew returned and

information was gathered that it must have been weapons.

Mr. Sarbanes. Did you have knowledge of the meeting of December 7th in the White House where they sort of said this is a bad idea and the McFarlane visit to London where McFarlane came back and said Ghorbanifar is a sleazy character, we ought not to have anything to do with him, and the whole thing looked like it would be terminated?

Mr. George. I did not.

Mr. SARBANES. You had no knowledge of that?

Mr. George. I have been given documents since about that.

Mr. SARBANES. As you were drawn into it and saw the Secord involvement, were you aware of Secord's role with North in the Central American operation?

Mr. George. I did not know.

Mr. SARBANES. You did not——

Mr. George. On the 18th of January 1986 that Secord was involved with Colonel North in the Contra affair.

Mr. SARBANES. When did you find that out?

Mr. George. I am afraid since this committee was formed.

Mr. SARBANES. That is the first time——

Mr. George. I may have had some hint of it somewhere along the line, Senator—I knew Secord was deep into the Iranian affair, I was very familiar with Secord's involvement, Secord attended meetings, I had made my position known to Bill Casey about having him involved, I had preferred he wouldn't be. He was. Now, after the fact is a bit like me running around saying don't use Ghorbanifar when they have already got him engaged in major foreign affairs activity; after the fact I am saying don't use Secord

when as you are implying to me he has already, probably, I don't

know, become a major factor in the Contra activity.

Mr. SARBANES. When you went to Casey after the January 18th meeting and warned him so strenuously about not having Secord involved, what did Casey say to you? Mr. George. He said, "I hear you."

Mr. SARBANES. Did you understand at the time that the Iranian thing was going forward, that Secord was earning these overages or residuals out of the arms sales?

Mr. George. Absolutely not.

Mr. SARBANES. You had no sense-

Mr. George. No. In fact, it was my impression, and now I know it's not true, that—you see, the Ghorbanifar Iranian arms deal is an Israeli deal sold to the United States. Fair enough. I mean it may have been a great deal, but that's it. The Israelis talked us into it, and we got into it and it was a joint Israeli-United States activity. It was a failure, but they had two hostages, [deleted]. Israel and the United States are in this thing together.

I always thought, because—this must come from too many years working for the Government, that the money was sort of not a big deal here. The Iranians would transfer the money to Israel; Israel would put the money in a bank account that we established in

Switzerland, arms would be shipped, and that was that.

It became evident to me as 1986 unwound that there was money confusion. All the money wouldn't get there. We had TOWs at [deleted], and they were worth so much but the money wouldn't get there. There was something wrong with the money movement.

But a long answer to a simple question—I didn't know that Dick

Secord was in the money business.

Mr. SARBANES. So you had no sense that one of the driving forces behind pushing arms to Iran may have been that it constituted a way of solving or was perceived as a way of solving the funding problem for the Contras?

Mr. George. Absolutely not. I absolutely was speechless at whatever point Senator Boren asked me what point it was, like if it wasn't the day Ed Meese said, it was the night before. It was just

totally remote to me.

The Iranian affair was established to do two things in order to one, get the hostages out, a decision of great importance, but it was made and it was—it struck me and I'm giving you one little guy's opinion, but I was there, was you're going to ship some arms. You're going to get all the hostages. I also didn't believe we would get all the hostages, but some.

Later I became more concerned maybe we could talk to Iran after McFarlane got to Tehran, but to make money, I never

thought of such a thing.

Mr. Sarbanes. Were you aware in any way that General Secord coveted your job and that he wanted to come back into the Govern-

ment and be the Director of Covert Operations for the CIA?

Mr. George. This is a very strange job and I have had it for a long time and I have now found a variety of people throughout Washington who would like it, and I'm amazed that people would want to do this for a living.

Mr. SARBANES. Thank you.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Hyde.

Mr. Hyde. Just a question on chronology perhaps, Mr. George. We have been wrestling with the Boland Amendment in its five versions and what it did to the CIA-in excluding it from certain operations and all of that, and I just wonder, when did the CIA give Mr. Boland a medal? Was that before or after the Boland Amendments were promulgated? Could you tell me that?

Mr. George. It was between three and four.

Mr. Hyde. Between three and four. I just thought that that might be a guideline for Mr. Hamiltion and Mr. Stokes, who can look forward to their medals if they can come up with similar legislation.

Thank you.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Stokes.

Mr. Stokes. On another unrelated matter, Mr. Chairman—Mr. Chairman, during my questioning of Dewey Clarridge regarding the mining of Nicaraguan harbors, Mr. Clarridge indicated that Senator Goldwater sent his famous letter to Mr. Casey in early May. I would like the record to reflect that Senator Goldwater sent his letter on Monday, April 9, 1984, according to the New York Times.

The record should also reflect that the mining became a highly public issue several days previous after a CBS Evening News story on April 6th, which was a Friday, and CIA records also showed Mr. Clarridge was in [deleted] between April 9th to the 13th, according to exhibit DRC-19 to 20.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that this statement and the New York Times article and the CBS Evening News report appear in the official record immediately following my questions to Mr. Clarridge.

Chairman Hamilton. Without objection, so ordered. The committees will stand in recess until 2:00 p.m.

[Whereupon, at 12:10 p.m., the Select Committees recessed, to reconvene at 2:00 p.m., this same day.]

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Select Committees met, pursuant to recess, at 2:10 p.m., in room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Lee H. Hamilton (chairman of the House Select Committee) and Hon. Daniel K. Inouye (chairman of the Senate Select Committee) presiding.

Mr. FASCELL [presiding]. The committee will come to order.

While the paucity is evident, I will ask a few irrelevant matters. I don't want to characterize your testimony and I am not being facetious, OK? But the impression I get is the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing and neither one of them really gives a damn. That is probably a little strong.

But that is an impression I have gotten throughout this whole

thing, not just your testimony, OK?

So I didn't really mean to characterize your testimony. It is just a feeling I have. Maybe that is due necessarily to the need for compartmentalization, especially in your area. But what I am having trouble with is the fact that here you are, Director of Operations,

and yesterday, I listened to a guy who was, I suppose—he is not lateral to you. I guess he is in the vertical; isn't he?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. FASCELL. He said he wasn't in charge of anything.

You say you weren't in charge of anything. Then he made a statement that really—he made a statement that really fascinated me. I wanted to ask about that.

I feel like I have more latitude when I am to the right of you. It has troubled me, as chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, many times. The issue is basically the estimate, analysis, and the raw data. I thought he made a very unusual statement. He said he wouldn't rely on any of that himself, that he was a better analyst than the analysts he had. In order for him to carry out his operations, he had to rely on himself.

Well, I just kind of would like to know how you feel. I am not trying to get him in trouble, but I think I understand his feeling.

Mr. George. He is a dear friend. My comments do not reflect on [C/CATF] in any way. I think it is absolutely critical to have—I think we proved it at the Bay of Pigs. It was exaggerated, but it is an accorted fact, it cannot be denied

an accepted fact, it cannot be denied.

You cannot have the operators doing the analysis. We become emotionally involved. A man becomes involved when he is in a project. [Deleted], I do not expect them to be "even-handed" about it all. They are in it to win it or achieve certain goals in it, [deleted]. Without contradicting dear [C/CATF]—whom I love—I think it is essential that you have independent analysis of the activities in which you are engaged. You do not want my directorate to be the final analytical body on American intelligence.

Mr. FASCELL. Oh, no. No. That is not exactly what I was driving

at.

In other words, you are charged with an operating responsibility, and you have to act on the basis of information which, as I understand it, starts with raw data, goes through some kind of a process of analysis, and——

Mr. George. Excuse me, sir.

Mr. FASCELL. Finally, a decision is made with respect to what is the situation.

Now, that has to come to the operator who is charged with the responsibility of carrying out the operation upon which he is going to make a judgment about the strategic moves that he is going to make.

The question I am asking then is how do you satisfy yourself outside of blind trust in guys that you may never see who gather the raw data, both in the field and in the central office, analyze it, and submit to you what is final product that you cannot rely on entirely?

Mr. George. Well, we are doing three different things. We are running espionage operations which is the collection of raw intelligence, [deleted]. We are charged overseas with counterintelligence functions of the U.S. Government, and we are in the one we all know about and the one that has brought us here today, which is covert action.

I, as the manager, do different things in those three fields. There is a long, hard process of analyzing espionage intelligence based on

the judgment of the access, reliability, previous experience and substance of your agent's report.

Mr. FASCELL. Let me stop you right there. Do you do that your-

self, personally?

Mr George. Our Director plays a major role in that because we

are the people who know who the agent is.

Mr. FASCELL. In other words, so you got your input at an early enough time that when you get the end product, you are reason-

ably satisfied.

Mr. George. We have recruited this individual here. He or she has reported 28 reports on the internal workings of the Government [deleted], and we have a belief that not only is he or she reliable and works where he or she does, but the intelligence appears to be valid as we can judge it against intelligence that we already have.

Mr. FASCELL. OK. It presents a problem for committees, believe

me.

Mr. George. Our real problem, though, if I could carry on-

Mr. FASCELL. Sure.

Mr. George. —is counterintelligence aside—your real problem is covert action in which we report—to take an example, which I hope is not true. [Deleted] we begin to report the facts more optimistically and more positively and in signs of more success than the truth because we want it to be so or we would like a little more money or we would like——

Mr. FASCELL. Like the Contras telling you the war is over.

Mr. George. That is tough to get that straight. You have to start bringing in—which I think is the blessing of the CIA. Whether we ended up this way by luck or wise forethought, we have another directorate. We have the Deputy Director for Foreign Intelligence, the intelligence directorate, that says, Clair, your material is rotten. We don't believe this stuff you are producing. There has to be a continuous give and take inside the Agency, in addition to which we go over to the State Department, which you know full well. I say to Mike Armacost, Mike, I have these five reports [deleted]. Mike says, wait a moment, the Embassy doesn't say so. In an ideal world, this continuously works that way. I would never trust one guy to say, hey, boy, we are winning the war down there in Nicaragua, and there is nothing to it.

Mr. FASCELL. So CIA puts it together from their vantage point

which has a variety of elements in it?

Mr. George. Collection and analysis.

Mr. FASCELL. Then as far as the intelligence community in concerned, that is another different operation which is the basis for the ultimate intelligence estimate which goes to the President, on which he is supposed to make a decision, and that means that you have DIA involved in the process, [deleted], and some other input.

Mr. George. You could have the people in the atomic world, if

you are talking about Soviet——

Mr. FASCELL. And you have an interagency intelligence committee that hammers out the intelligence estimate every day that goes to the President?

Mr. George. Well, there is not an estimate every day, Mr. Fascell. Every morning, for instance, the CIA produces in four copies a

thing called "The President's Daily Brief," which is much more of a sort of factual, high-powered newspaper. Today, for instance, it

would read [deleted]. It is a collation of all sources. [Deleted].

Mr. FASCELL. The reason I am taking you through all that is I am getting to the place where I am the President and want to make a decision about a covert operation involving Iran, and I have a report on my desk, a report, estimate, whatever it is. It says I really don't have to worry about terrorism when the facts are otherwise. Now what do I do?

Mr. George. Well, I tell you what I told the Tower Commission and what I have told the—I hope, I think—the Senate Committee, and then what you have all told me through the press. A man is only as good as the people he has around him. If you have people giving you burn advice, whether you are running a garage in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, or running the Government, you are out of luck.

Mr. FASCELL. But it gets hairier than that. You read the notes that were made and are part of Secretary Shultz's logs, and one of those notes says that the Director had suppressed a report on terrorism. It was on his desk.

Mr. George. I don't recall that. I am sorry, sir.

Mr. FASCELL. Then we also got the testimony that that report was rewritten and a new report was issued which became the basis for either the daily report to the President or the national estimate, or whatever it was.

Mr. George. Two statements. I must say in defense of Bill Casey—who we all know in this room had very strong and very partisan political positions as an individual—I never saw Bill Casey

try to cook the books on intelligence.

My second point is there was a debate, which I think is what you are referring to, toward the end of this tragic affair last year, in which the State Department and the CIA were arguing on the subject of Iranian terrorism. Is that the issue you recall?

Mr. FASCELL. Yes. Absolutely.

Mr. George. I found it a foolish debate. I felt Iran was engaged in terrorism. I agree with you. There was an example of a desperate attempt to try to sort of prove something was happening to

make the policy look good, and it wasn't.

Mr. FASCELL. That gets back to where I started, you see, about left-hand, right-hand. The fact is that the CIA was intimately involved in that dispute, one way or the other, and I don't mean that you were personally. I don't know whether you were or not. Were you?

Mr. George. I was not.

Mr. FASCELL. Wouldn't be any reason for you to be involved?

Mr. George. I disagreed with the position that was taken.

Mr. FASCELL. So the person that wore the hat of the National Intelligence Officer on Counterterrorism would have that principal burden?

Mr. George. The National Intelligence Officer on Counterterrorism would have that burden. Here is the worst example you could find. You are quite right. He is engaged also as an action officer in the activity. So you brought the ideal example of what it should not be like.

Mr. FASCELL. Let me ask you another question that has been kind of bugging me for quite a while. Are you responsible for the control of bank accounts around the world? CIA bank accounts?

Mr. George. Well, no. I mean, they are controlled—set up and controlled by [deleted], but they are set up at our request. They are set up when we ask for them. We tell people how much money to put in them, so, yes, in a way I am, although there is a whole finance office.

Mr. FASCELL. Don't you have to have a lot of paperwork to instruct that finance officer who keeps the accounts what the hell

the accounts are all about?

Mr. George. I'm not sure you have to tell the finance officer what the account is all about. [Deleted], the poor finance man doesn't have to know why it is going in there.

Mr. FASCELL. Agreed. He does not have to know that, but he has to know how much is going to be in there. He has to be instructed

when to let it out, though?

Mr. George. Well, he doesn't—he may be instructed whatever is withdrawn by the man who has the account, [deleted], it can be withdrawn.

[Deleted].

Mr. FASCELL. But the operator, in this case you, you make the

decision then?

Mr. George. I've convinced Washington, and if it is that kind of money I've gone up to the Director [deleted]—with the concurrence of the Director because of the amount of money I then say, "set up an account, put it there, put it in this name, put this money in it and allow it to be withdrawn under these conditions."

Mr. FASCELL. So you are, as the operator, director of operations, responsible in that sense. We don't have to look beyond you to find

out what is going on in those accounts, right?

Mr. George. I won't know every account in the record. If I don't know, I can get an answer faster than anybody around.

Mr. FASCELL. And that is true whether direct or indirect?

Mr. George. I don't understand the question.

Mr. FASCELL. If it is appropriated funds going into an account,

you deal with funds other than appropriated funds.

Mr. George. Well, all the funds I deal with are appropriated by the—they are appropriated by the Appropriations Committee but authorized by the oversight committees, and the oversight committees, if they have found out there is \$500,000 a year that CIA is spending something, up until now we have said this is [deleted], and I suppose if the committees demanded to know what they were, they could find out.

Mr. FASCELL. What I'm getting at is whether or not you had any

control over the Secord-Hakim accounts?

Mr. George. I didn't, none whatsoever, absolutely.

Mr. FASCELL. Well, who did, if you didn't?

Mr. George. Reading the paper and listening to this committee, I assume that Mr. Hakim and Mr. Secord had control over their accounts. They were not CIA accounts. CIA had nothing to do with those accounts.

Mr. FASCELL. Excuse me. That is your conclusion.

Mr. George. That is Clair George's opinion.

Mr. FASCELL. It didn't go through your shop, is what you're tell-

ing me?

Mr. George. It didn't go through my shop. What was set up in Switzerland as we now know and there was a folderol, screw-up in the beginning when the finance officer commingled some money for the missiles with [deleted], was an independent Swiss account which we set up for—[deleted] where Mr. Secord and Mr. Hakim and the Lake Resources Company, and I'm thanking you because I never heard of this before—sure were not me or us or the CIA in any way that I know of.

Mr. FASCELL. The boss went a long way to protect you, Mr.

George.

Mr. George. The Director—he went a long way to protect us. You're right.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Rodino.

Mr. Rodino. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. George, I just have two questions.

I referred to your deposition on page 60, Mr. George, where you were asked about the DEA operations, and you indicated that your Near East people would come to you and say, and I quote, on page 60: "The DEA case is running extreme. It is a bunch of hocuspocus. It is phony. [Deleted]; let's stop. And I would say let's stop."

Then you say again on page 62 of your deposition on lines 7 and 8: "Colonel North's activities, as it related to the hostages and their plans that he came up with," you said it was "one of endless, harebrained schemes that took place at that time."

And you also went on to say in the same deposition on page 67, lines 18 through 20, you said: "I don't remember a single operation that involved bribery or purported bribery that I thought was

worth anything, that anything would ever come out of it.'

My question to you, Mr. George, in your position of responsibility there, having felt as you did and as strongly as you did, and we also note that CIA people who were interviewed and deposed by the committee staff have also said the same thing—my question is, how did you allow this to go on, feeling as strongly as you did? It

went on for a period of time.

Mr. George. Well, I—the words are emotional here and I would have to sit down and look at this again. But the point I made was that—or I should have made, or the point I now make is that in the hostage business, which is what I'm speaking about, Mr. Chairman, unlike many other intelligence activities, you have to follow up on your leads, as silly or as impractical or as unprofessional as they sound.

So our communication system [deleted] in the world because you

can never not report it.

The point I tried to make here is that we were on several occasions and certainly in the DEA operation bypassed after we had voted in our directorate that the operation was, to use the words I

used about DEA, a scam. How could that happen?

Mr. Rodino, sir, I'm the Director of your foreign spy service, and have been involved for years in it. If someone decides in the White House that they do not like my opinion on an operation and we have seen the White House run operations outside of CIA over the last many administrations, they can do it. I just do not have the

power other than to give you my honest, best advice based on my colleagues who I sit with, this is what your spies think about it. I

certainly have no veto power on it.

I think in this case, and we are talking about hostages, and the emotionalism of the hostage issue throughout the entire affair, with Bill Casey, with the President, with me, people didn't want to stop. They wanted to get the hostages and it led them to do and run operations that are now after the fact foolish.

Mr. Rodino. But you did say and you were quite adamant about it, that if it is a question of paying a million dollars cash in hand

for hostages, you certainly wouldn't go for that, would you?

Mr. George. That has been against the policy of this govern-

ment—let's back up a little bit.

A lot of governments do it. Some [deleted] do it, but the policy as I know it certainly since the days—and by chance, I associate it with his name—since the days of Dr. Kissinger and hostage-taking, kidnapping became more of an international terrorist rage—excuse the word—than previously, you cannot give in to terrorists. You cannot pay ransom for hostages.

[Deleted] do not necessarily agree with that policy, but that was our policy, has been our policy, continued to be our policy until this

event took place.

Even more so, we were doing two things at once. I was running and running a foreign policy activity in which I was telling everybody we're not paying any ransom for hostages while we were shipping arms to Iran.

Mr. Rodino. You're saying that notwithstanding the fact that you considered it harebrained and real foolishness, nonetheless the emotionalism or something you feel sort of influenced you to permit them to go along with any harebrained idea—couldn't you

just say stop now?

Mr. George. I can't say stop to the National Security Council if they are going to go out and run an operation without my knowledge and that is what happened with the DEA operation. They decided that my judgment was incorrect and that my decision that it was a scam was wrong and that they were going to run it anyway and they ran it anyway, and now we know, thanks to you, that we ran it with I guess private moneys or moneys that they siphoned off the Iran arms deal, but that is unknown to me. I don't think this administration is singularly guilty of this. This happens to be an incredibly significant event that we are participating in. But over and over again White House after White House has said I think our spy service is no good or they don't know what they are doing or I'm going to start one of my own or I'm going to run my own operation, and it is not the first time and tragically will not be the last time, and on top of which maybe we are wrong.

Mr. Rodino. How do you think we control a situation like that?

Mr. George. I think we—I think—

Mr. Rodino. If they don't listen to someone like you who has experience, expertise and who feels deeply and yet at the same time

it goes on notwithstanding as you say.

Mr. George. We continue to appoint and elect the best men we can. The Republic will survive. We will look foolish from time to time, we will listen to our experts and then do the best we can.

Mr. Rodino. Thank you very much.

Mr. George. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate it.

Chairman Hamilton. Senator McClure. Mr. McClure. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I guess there is another answer to that question, we can always

elect the Director of the CIA President of the United States.

I have two or three questions. I believe from the testimony that we have seen that the President sincerely believed that he was not running an arms for hostages program, but I think everbody has since come to the belief that no matter what he thought, it had the appearance of an arms for hostage exchange.

Mr. George. It certainly appeared at a lower level and certainly we had people like Secord running around the world telling people

that that is what the exercise was.

Mr. McClure. It became evident enough that that was the appearance that even the President said I don't think so, but I guess that is what it looks like and therefore must be. Isn't the same thing true of the DEA program? They weren't ransoming hostages, they were just bribing people that held them or could expedite their release. But isn't it also true that even if that was their motivation they were not dealing with the people who took the hostages, they were dealing with other people who could get them released and it was only going to come to be an outright ransom pro-

Mr. George. My opinion, the DEA exercise was an exercise of paying ransom for hostages. There was a double step. The first step was to give them money [deleted] and then give them some more money to go in, and the final step if I remember was that for \$2 million apiece and \$250,000 to [deleted]. It is a matter of definition, but in my definition you are then paying ransom for hostages.

Mr. McClure. No matter how you rationalize, that is what it

would become?

Mr. George. The big argument about the Iran arms deal was that we were not paying arms for hostages. [Deleted]. There are a lot of subtleties, but I must say I must give you my honest opinion is the DEA activity at the end was a ransom for hostages.

Mr. McClure. You don't have it in your book, but we had an exhibit in the Poindexter interrogation, exhibit no. 24. You will note at the beginning of that memorandum there is a reference to the

military situation in Iran.

Mr. George. The yellow line, the highlighted section?

Mr. McClure. Yes. I think Mr. Courter this morning went into the intelligence assessment with you but I don't think he made reference to that particular document. That document shows on its face the assessment that the military situation, Iran's military situation was deteriorating. I think that was later the same statement that the President used in a meeting in the White House when some of the principals were present. I know Secretary Weinberger and Secretary Shultz were at that meeting. Both were asked why didn't you correct the President when he made that statement. Both said well, they didn't pay any attention to it or words to that effect.

That of course doesn't tell us exactly why Admiral Poindexter

had that assessment in there [deleted]?

Mr. George. This is [deleted], serving their national interests as they perceived them at the time, which is to open up a dialogue with Iran, which has been since the founding of the [deleted] understandably, and if I were there, correctly, to maintain relations with your enemy's enemies and they will forever try to open up a relation with Iran. That said, they judge, and I disagree with this analysis, but who am I to disagree with them, that [deleted] analyzed the situation as such that Iran's deteriorating position in the war with Iraq, potential for radicalization in Iran, et cetera, et cetera, provides that we have to do something.

Mr. McClure. Do you have independent evidence that that was

the [deleted]?

Mr. George. That the [deleted] really believe this or were they trying to influence us, is that the question?

Mr. McClure. Either one or both.

Mr. George. I think the [deleted] are overly concerned and exaggerate with well meaning the deterioration of the Iranian position. But I also suggest, and I note that the author of this document is one Lt. Col. Oliver L. North, that there is a big heavy spin in here which is why don't you join us up and we all go into an activity together. I had never seen this thing.

Mr. McClure. That was not your assessment, however, [deleted].

[Deleted].

Mr. McClure. You have testified that the CIA thought Ghorbanifar was not reliable and you had a burn notice against him. Prior to your knowledge that Ghorbanifar was in this initiative, had the

CIA been involved with Mr. Ghorbanifar before?

Mr. George. Yes, our relations with Mr. Ghorbanifar go back to the '79-'80 period when the Shah fell. Mr. Ghorbanifar as best we can copy it out was a Sabak agent who had used, which was not untypical for the Persians, had used his SAVAK position to make money. He fled Iran, set himself up in London, [deleted]. [Deleted] we used him in the '79-'81 period when the American diplomatic hostages were held in Tehran. Over and over up until 1983, I believe, I think when we issued the burn notice, it became evident to us that Mr. Ghorbanifar's information, intelligence, regardless of the subject, was inaccurate, incomplete, and dishonest.

Mr. McClure. In spite of the fact that you had that conclusion and that you tried to dissuade others from depending upon Ghorbanifar, you described it as pretty much a done deal in which there

wasn't much you would do about it?

Mr. George. You have shown me things I did not know. I was working at a very low level in—just pick the month, December 1985.

Mr. McClure. Do you have a feel for who was pushing his use? Mr. George. The Israelis. I think Mr. Ghorbanifar is a recruited agent of the Government of Israel [deleted], we do not believe Ghorbanifar's information.

Mr. McClure. Was Bill Casey pushing him?

Mr. George. Bill Casey never pushed Ghorbanifar with me. Now I know Casey certainly knew more about it than I knew he knew. When I went in and made my strong plea for breaking off with Mr. Ghorbanifar, Bill Casey moved the operation from myself to someone else.

Mr. McClure. Thank you very much.

Mr. Chairman, my time has expired. Thank you very much, Mr.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Genzman, do you have questions?

Mr. Genzman. Yes. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

I would like to ask you about the polygraph examination of Mr. Ghorbanifar. Would you turn to exhibit 50?

Mr. George. Again Mr. Genzman, what number?

Mr. Genzman. Exhibit 50. That is the memorandum for the record of the Ghorbanifar polygraph examination on January 11th, 1986. Have you seen that before, sir?

Mr. George. Yes I have.

Mr. Genzman. Following up on Senator McClure's questions I take it that you were concerned about Mr. Ghorbanifar because he had lied to you in the past, had shown himself to be unreliable and therefore the burn notice was sent out, is that a fair statement?

Mr. George. That is correct.

Mr. Genzman. And I take it the concern was that he would con-

tinue to lie in respect to this Iran initiative?

Mr. George. We were asked in December 1985 by Michael Ledeen, Bill Casey, and the administration to make contacts with Manucher Ghorbanifar because he was an outstanding source of intelligence on Iran. It now becomes evident after the fact that we were being asked to meet with Ghorbanifar and learn to love him because they were about ready to put us in touch with him in the Iran initiative. So we did not know in December, as [deleted] met him as we polygraphed him in January—the irony of this is I put out a field notice, which is here somewhere, Mr. Kerr pointed out earlier, I sent a cable around the world saying Ghorbanifar is a crook, you will have nothing to do with him and 2 days later I am in the White House being given the Finding to which surprise, surprise, the guy I am going to be dealing with or supporting the National Security Council to deal with is Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Genzman. Certainly by the time of the polygraph examination you knew that Mr. Ghorbanifar was going to be used in the

Iran initiative or was in fact being used?

Mr. George. I don't recall that I knew that at all. Mr. Genzman. Did you receive a copy of exhibit 50?

Mr. George. I am sure I did. What is the date—all right, is there some statement in here that leads you to believe that I know-

Mr. Genzman. If I could direct your attention to the second sentence: "He showed deception on virtually all the relevant questions." If I could direct your attention to the last sentence of that first paragraph: "The tests indicated that he knew ahead of time that the hostages would not be released and deliberately tried to deceive us both independently and with blank."

Mr. George. He had told [deleted], if my memory—I am a little hazy but I am doing my best—he told [deleted] in the meetings that were set up by Mr. Ledeen that he could effect the release of the hostages, and whether he told [deleted] specifically through arms or how I don't know. Remember, [deleted] is operating totally independently of what we now know is the connection with Ghorbanifar on the arms deal. [Deleted] as a case officer has no relationship to that. At this point in this famous meeting with Mr. Ghorbanifar,

Mr. Ledeen and Mr. North, who showed up later, Ghorbanifar begins to exude about how he can organize the release of the hostages. And it is a tough question, I don't know how you ask this on a polygraph, it is a silly question, can you get the hostages released yes or no, it implies—he said he knew the Islamic Jihad, which is the crowd in Beirut, and they could release the hostages. We said that that showed signs of deception on the polygraph. I am sorry, I had not read that before.

Mr. Genzman. In the last paragraph on the page, it indicates that in discussing the hostage deal Ghorbanifar stated he was very uncomfortable with the questions asked. Does that not imply to you, sir, that the polygraph examiner was in fact asking him questions about the ongoing Iran initiative and the arms for hostages

exchange?

Mr. George. I would have to review that. I appreciate your question and I am unable to give you an exact answer because it goes on in that light. During the break in the testimony, he commented that the Israelis already have \$24 million that they are holding of his funds. I will check this out for you. I must say Mr. Ghorbanifar, in all his tales and all his stories, left us bewildered as to who he was dealing with, what, where, how, and when. We were generally lost.

Mr. Genzman. In any event the polygraph took place on January 11th, 1986, about a week before President Reagan signed the Finding of January 17th. Was this memo sent to Mr. Casey or Lt. Col. North?

Mr. George. I wouldn't have—I advised Colonel North, we now know from Colonel North's notebook that Mr. Ghorbanifar had shown deception in 11 out of 13 or 13 out of 15 points. I cannot tell you for a fact, looking at this document, to whom it was delivered inside CIA, meaning specifically did Bill Casey ever see this? I don't know.

Mr. GENZMAN. When you advised Lt. Col. North, did you specify

the areas in which Mr. Ghorbanifar had been deceptive?

Mr. George. If my memory serves me, Mr. Ghorbanifar could only repeat his name and his nationality and pass the machine.

Mr. Genzman. Correct, but did you in fact——

Mr. George. I am sure I told Ollie not only is he having trouble on his polygraph, but he can't get anything straight.

Mr. Genzman. Just so the record is clear, did you specify these

areas that we have spoken about?

Mr. George. Did we tell Colonel North the areas we walked him through——

Mr. Genzman. Yes, that he knew ahead of time the hostages would not be released.

Mr. George. I can try to get that answer for you. I can't answer that question. I am sure it is answerable inside my directorate.

Mr. Genzman. The document exhibit 50 mentions that neither Mr. Ghorbanifar nor Ledeen had been advised about the results of the test. Did you at some point or did one of your colleagues advise Mr. Ledeen or Mr. Ghorbanifar as to the results?

Mr. George. I am almost certain that Mr. Ledeen was advised and, if he was advised, you can count on it like night follows day

100 mg

he told Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Genzman. Do you recall advising-

Mr. George. I did not advise Ledeen. I was not in touch with Ledeen, this was being handled primarily through my officer, [deleted.

Mr. Genzman. On the third page at clause 2-D, it states that he showed deception on the question of whether he was under the con-

trol of the Iranian Government. Do you recall that result?

Mr. George. I do not. It would certainly be available to you and the committee, the full results from the polygrapher of that examination.

Mr. GENZMAN. Do you recall whether Lt. Col. North or Mr.

Casey was advised of that result?

Mr. George. I cannot. I can get you that answer. I cannot answer it.

Mr. GENZMAN. Did you and the CIA receive any information regarding whether Mr. Ghorbanifar was, in fact, under the control of

the Iranian Government?

Mr. George. No. That was never a charge that—specifically, Mr. Ghorbanifar proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that he had powerful relationships inside the Iranian Government. Mr. McFarlane did not arrive in Tehran accidentally. The release of Mr.—of Reverend Weir after the Israeli flight, which, after the fact, I know appears to be connected. Ghorbanifar, as I was challenged before I believe the Tower Commission, I guess I spent total time speaking down Mr. Ghorbanifar. Mr. Ghorbanifar had powerful friends. As we recall, his most powerful friend in Iran-was [deleted]. If you will do the research on [deleted], you will find [deleted]. So he had influence. But what kind of influence? Was he under the control of the Iranians? Yes, he was, to some degree, because he was working business deals.

I could see where he would have trouble answering a question: Are you under the influence of the Government of Iran? Well. to some degree, he was. I made that up. I can get the facts for you, counsel.

Mr. Genzman. Thank you, Mr. George.

Mr. Chairman, I have no further questions.

Mr. George. Thank you, sir.

Chairman Hamilton. The chair recognizes and yields time to Senator Cohen.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to go back to a point we talked about this morning. That is with reference to the United States selling U.S. equipment for profit, those profits being the legitimate property of the United States Treasury or taxpayers. That would be true even in the event that the CIA were to use a commercial cutout, would it not?

Mr. George. Absolutely.

Mr. Cohen. That has been the pattern in the past? Mr. George. We deal with U.S. equipment through private proprietaries, Senator Cohen, as you know. Just because it's some

storefront [deleted], still it's United States property.
Mr. COHEN. Is it fair to say in the January 17 Finding, when there was a reference to third parties and General Secord is thereafter treated as an "Agent" of the U.S. Government, that nonetheless it was contemplated that he was merely serving as an agent of

the U.S. Government for the purpose of carrying out this particular transaction of selling weapons to the Iranians and not for the purpose of making a profit, the profits of which would either be

used for the Contras or any other project?

Mr. George. It was mysterious, to give you a personal and then—I am not a lawyer, of course—but a legal answer. It was mysterious as to what Mr. Secord's role was. I think it was to show me he had the benefit of White House—total White House exposure.

Mr. Cohen. I am talking about the face of the Finding itself.

Mr. George. Looking at the face of the Finding itself, it would be my judgment, as a man who reads Findings and a man who gets involved in them, in covert action Findings that it was not for Mr. Secord to make money, but Mr. Secord to represent the Government of the United States and in a way, we have had people represent us, using U.S. Government property, but we don't go out and say if you make any money, keep it.

Mr. Cohen. You mentioned earlier this morning when you spoke with Oliver North on the phone with reference to the polygraph that Mr. Ghorbanifar had taken, you said that it was clear that

Oliver North wanted him to pass the polygraph?

Mr. George. They wanted us to deal with Mr. Ghorbanifar. They wanted us, to put it in even more practical sense, they wanted us to like Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Cohen. No matter what the polygraph said? Is that correct? Mr. George. Well, the polygraph results came so briefly before I received a Presidential order to deal with him that I really didn't have a lot of time to sit around and argue. So somewhere between whatever the dates are, the 11th to the 17th, before I could, say, go through one more fight about Mr. Ghorbanifar, I received a Presidential order which—would not say so, but ended up meaning we were dealing with Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Cohen. Even after you became aware of the polygraph results, you didn't go rushing to Bill Casey or the President saying you are forcing us to deal with a liar? You knew from that point

on-

Mr. George. I told Bill Casey after the polygraph, I believe—and I said to counsel—I told Bill Casey the results or [deleted] or one of us said Bill, he's failed 13 out of his 15 questions. It was at that point—and I don't have the chronology exact, that I said I don't want to deal with him anymore, speaking for this directorate. Bill Casey said look, he knows a lot about terrorism, and blah, blah. Off he went to Charlie Allen.

Mr. Cohen. So he was shuffled off to Charlie Allen?

Mr. George. But in a week I'm back because there was a Finding.

Mr. Cohen. The point is Charlie Allen nonetheless was charged

with kind of overseeing his activities?

Mr. George. Charlie Allen was specifically told to talk to him

about terrorism. [Deleted].

Mr. Cohen. Let me go back. A week after the Finding, you are back on as far as the oversight of Mr. Ghorbanifar in concerned?

Mr. George. Well, no, not really.

Mr. Cohen. That's what I thought you just said a moment ago.

Mr. George. What I meant to say is that immediately after the Finding, we are told that we are to support an ongoing national security initiative in which we are meeting in Europe with Iranians who have contacts. We fly to Europe and who do we meet? Mr. Ghorbanifar.

Mr. Cohen. At that point what was your role in dealing with Mr.

Ghorbanifar from the Directorate of Operations?

Mr. George. Our role was in the narrow sense at that point to supply logistics and financial support—financial support mechanisms for the National Security Council exercise.

[Deleted].

Mr. Cohen. You also made a reference this morning to Mr. McMahon's anger over the CIA role in November. I think you also talked about that on pages 77 and 78 of your deposition. You don't need to turn to it. My question is Mr. McMahon was fairly upset, was he not, about the CIA's role in the shipment during November? Is that a fair characterization?

Mr. George. He was terribly upset.

Mr. Cohen. He communicated that visible anger, I assume not

only to you but to Mr. Clarridge?

Mr. George. I was a bystander that Monday morning because I had just come back from a trip. I found him ranting and raving—I am sorry to—that's a slight exaggeration—at Ed Juchniewicz, my deputy. Whether John McMahon personally telephoned Dewey Clarridge or saw him, I can't recall. But Dewey damned well knew that John McMahon way angry.

Mr. Cohen. With respect to the Inspector General's investigation pertaining to the activities down in Central America [Castillo] according to the Tower Board, misled the Inspector General. [Castillo] explained his misleading the IG on the basis that he had received certain parameters—he was told to anticipate certain parameters as far as the investigation and the questioning was concerned.

I think he pointed to you as the one who he understood had set those parameters and so when he was finally questioned by the IG and was given a line of questioning he did not anticipate, he misled

the IG.

Mr. George. His exact phrasing, if I understand it correctly—and [deleted], correct me if I am worng—was that the division chief had instructed him at my instructions. This is absolutely, totally not true.

Mr. Cohen. You gave no instructions to the IG?

Mr. George. First of all, the IG inspection of [Castillo] started or

took place at a time when I was in the hospital.

The instructions I gave—this is the second or third time this has come up. To set the record correct, the chief of the Latin American Division came to me at some point before I left for the hospital and said that [Castillo] was back and [Castillo] was going to appear before the Tower Commission or had been scheduled to, in December. [Castillo] was terribly concerned about the issue of sources and methods, what did I suggest? And I gave the suggestion, Senator, that you and I have worked under for years, which is if it's terribly sensitive, call time out and let's all huddle and see what we are going to do. I would never, and have never—I can't imagine under

what conditions except the most sensitive information advise a fellow employee on how to testify before my own IG.

Mr. Cohen. Just two more questions, Mr. Chairman.

Exhibit—I believe it's 17, relates to a memo from Colonel North to Robert McFarlane. [Deleted] "the CIA dispatched the cable at tab C through operational channels and all copies have been destroyed."

The question I have is, who decides whether or not the cable traf-

fic should be retained or destroyed?

Mr. George. I never heard of us saying to anybody except the Director or the President of the United States, we will destroy all traffic. We don't.

Mr. Cohen. The President is the only one who could order de-

struction, or the Director?

Mr. George. I have never run into—I have never in my career run into a telegram from abroad or anywhere else in which I was ordered to make sure everything was destroyed.

Mr. Cohen. Just the opposite is the practice? It is preserved?

Mr. George. The only strength we have is the ability to maintain our files.

Mr. Cohen. OK.

Before the Senate Select Committee, I believe you indicated that you were not aware of the Finding prior to that time. I think you indicated January 18?

Mr. George. The morning of the 18th, the day after the Presi-

dent signed it.

Mr. Cohen. The question I have is, there is an indication in the documents that you had a meeting on January 13 with Colonel North and Judge Sporkin and then you had a meeting on January 16 with Colonel North.

The question I have is, what would you be discussing with Colonel North and Sporkin on the 13th and on the 16th with Colonel North if it didn't involve some discussion of the Finding process?

Mr. George. There was no meeting with North and Sporkin. I would have remembered that. I did not attend a meeting with North and Sporkin. A meeting with North on the—what is the latter date? Seventeenth?

Mr. COHEN. Thirteenth with North and Sporkin, 16th with North?

Mr. George. Sixteenth, I don't know. My calendar would show if I met with him. I did not meet privately with North and Sporkin.

Mr. COHEN. On Janury 18th, you brought the head of the Near East Division with you to the White House. The question I have is, how was it possible that you only learned on the 18th of the Finding if you-

Mr. George. I was told by McMahon and Casey I was to go to the White House where I was to be briefed on a National Security Council activity which involved Israel and Iran, and that we would

be providing support. So I took [deleted].

Mr. Cohen. One final point. On Secord, and this has been talked about, I guess, with a number of members, at the time he was in the White House Situation Room with you on January 18, and I guess I wanted to ask you the question: What did the name Secord mean to you and generally to the Agency at that time?

Mr. George. It meant what I told you when I took my oath and appeared before the Senate Select Committee in late November of 1986. Secord had been messed up and involved—in some way engaged in activities on the fringes of Tom Clines, Ed Wilson, international arms traffic. I had no evidence then and I have no evidence now that Mr. Secord is violating law, but there's a world of ours in which there are people we do not deal with and Mr. Secord is one of them.

Mr. Cohen. The world of yours—one final point—is it fair to say that people at your level, and I'm talking certainly with Mr. McMahon, Mr. Casey, yourself, Mr. Clarridge, would have knowledge of the—generally General Secord's activities?

Mr. George. Absolutely.

Mr. COHEN. His is a name that certainly would pop up on the mental screen?

Mr. George. I don't see how you could be in this business and not know the name of Richard Secord.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you very much. That's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. DeWine is recognized for 10 minutes.

Mr. DEWINE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[Deleted].

Mr. DeWine. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Chairman Hamilton. Sentor Nunn? Ten minutes.

Mr. Nunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. George, you may have answered this, as I have had to be in and out today, regrettably. When did you first know about the diversion of funds from the arms sales to the Contras?

Mr. George. On or about the day that the Attorney General made the statement. I am told by [C/CATF] that I told him earlier in the day prior to the Attorney General's statement, but certainly I did not know about the diversion of the funds any more than a day before, and if I did, I wouldn't know how I learned that.

Mr. Nunn. Did you talk to Director Casey about that subject either before or after that press conference by the Attorney Gener-

al?

Mr. George. On the 17th—correct me on the record—the 20th—the day Bill Casey came back from his trip to Central America. The 19th of November, 1986. As you know—may know, Senator Nunn, from previous testimony, or from Mr. Gates' testimony, there was great chaos at CIA in putting together Bill Casey's testimony. We had sent down a proposed testimony on a plane for him to read on his way back.

That night, some 25 of us, at least, gathered in Director Casey's conference room to discuss his testimony. My role—I had seen up until then—was to gather the specific activities of the Operations Directorate and give those, in turn, to Bob Gates' special assistant who was collating all the materials from the whole agency on what

we had done.

In that meeting, and it was extremely complicated, and people wouldn't know, and Bill Casey, we now know, was very sick and gave an appearance of exhaustion. An individual at the meeting, I thought it was Bob Gates, Bob said it wasn't he. Others have remembered it. Someone said, "Bill, not only is this chaos and how

are we going to explain it, and you know we had a Finding we didn't tell Congress," the rest of it, but, "Bill, there is discussion of a diversion of Iran funds."

And Bill Casey replied, "I know absolutely nothing about that." And that was the only time, Senator Nunn, that I ever heard Bill

Casey comment on it whatsoever.

Mr. Nunn. And that date was?

Mr. George. The 20th of November, 1986.

Mr. Nunn. That was before the Attorney General had discovered that memo?

Mr. George. I don't know, sir. I know of what I speak.

Mr. Nunn. Where did that information come from? Do you recall

who said that? How did they know about the diversion?

Mr. George. Doherty, our General Counsel, remembers the question that someone—I didn't ask it. Someone said, "Oh, Bill, there are rumors there's been diversions of funds."

Mr. Nunn. I wonder how they would have known at that stage?

Mr. George. I have no idea, Senator.

Mr. Nunn. Can you find out who that was?

Mr. George. I think we can get you information, because I have brought that to the attention of our lawyers and asked them to walk through the entire group at that meeting.

Mr. Nunn. Will you do that for us?

Mr. George. I certainly will.

[Deleted] reminds me that the memo I didn't see, the Charlie Allen memo suggesting there may be diversion of funds, had been made available to some people inside the Agency. But I can get that for you.

Mr. Nunn. Did you have any conversations with anyone else out at ClA about whether Director Casey knew about the diversion

subsequent to that event?

Mr. George. No.

Mr. Nunn. Have you since?

Mr. George. Well, since Oliver North and Ed Meese and John Poindexter have testified, Senator, I've probably discussed this with everybody in the family, and at the CIA.

Mr. Nunn. Have you had anyone tell you that they had informa-

tion on this, direct or indirect?

Mr. George. I have not. Never once have I heard anybody say either over a beer or in a dead serious conversation, let me tell you what I know. I am the only person that I know, except I think [deleted], and there's somebody else at this meeting I attended that heard those words out of Casey's mouth, which were I heard nothing about diversion.

Mr. Cohen. Senator, would you yield for a question?

Mr. Nunn. Sure.

Mr. COHEN. Weren't there [deleted] that Charlie Allen was at least reviewing that had to do with the pricing and overpricing of the weapons?

Mr. George. So I am told. I was not aware of that. If I had access

[deleted], they went in one box and out the other.

Charlie and [C/CATF], according to the testimony, was the man who discovered or suspected or thought having read closely through [deleted] that there is some money monkeyshines going on.

That led to his briefing of, I think, Bob and the Director at some point. But I was not in on that one.

Mr. Cohen. Thank you, Senator Nunn.

Mr. Nunn. Did you know Oliver North personally or professionally?

Mr. George. Professionally quite well.

Mr. Nunn. You have heard him testify that Director Casey knew?

Mr. George. That is right.

Mr. Nunn. You were there when Director Casey said he did not know about the diversion?

Mr. George. In this one remark in a room with 25 people.

Mr. Nunn. Do you have any suggestions for the committee in trying to determine who is telling the truth on that subject, Director Casey or Colonel North?

Mr. George. I do not.

Mr. Nunn. One other subject here, Mr. George. There was a memorandum from—for the record, from Charles Dunbar, State Department, December 14, 1986. I am going to read you a quote from that. I don't know which exhibit that is. Let me read it to you and see if you know anything about this.

and see if you know anything about this.

"Poindexter told Cave—"—and that reference is to George Cave—"—that he personally asked the Kuwaitis to do something about the Dawa prisoners. Cave believes Poindexter met with the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister here in the fall and may have seen him

in the region at some point, as well."

"North also met with the Kuwaiti Ambassador and perhaps with

other foreign officials as well."

My question to you is, do you know anything about Poindexter, North, or anyone else in the U.S. Government asking the Kuwaits to release the prisoners or putting any degree of pressure on them to release the Dawa prisoners?

Mr. George. No. [Deleted].

[Deleted] in no uncertain terms that it was the intention of the Government of Kuwait to keep those prisoners until they had completed their sentences or whatever.

Mr. Nunn. So all the information you had was precisely the op-

posite from the import of this memo?

Mr. George. I haven't read this, but from the import of what you

read me, yes.

Mr. Nunn. You don't know anyone in government who was actually asked or that actually contacted the Kuwaitis about releasing

the prisoners?

Mr. George. I know no government official who contacted the Kuwaitis to ask them to release the Dawa prisoners. In fact, to the opposite. I am familiar with a message from the President of the United States to the Sheik of Kuwait urging him not to bend under any pressures.

Mr. Nunn. Do you know anyone outside government acting on our behalf, on the government's behalf, that was putting pressure

or asking Kuwait to release the prisoners?

Mr. George. No. sir.

Mr. Nunn. One other question, Mr. George. When Colonel North testified, he started his testimony by saying that a covert operation

is a lie itself. The implication of that was that other lies that flow therefrom are natural and recurring events in covert operations.

Would you give us your own view, since you have been involved in this business for a long time, about how you deal with your fellow officers and agents in carrying out a covert operation?

Whether lies are necessary within the operation itself?

Mr. George. I disagree with Colonel North, as strongly as I can disagree with anyone. This is a business which you know, Senator Nunn, from your experience on the Senate Committee and many of you who have dealt with me and more importantly with my Agency, this is a business of trust. This is a business that works outside the law, outside the United States.

It is a business that is very difficult to define by legal terms because we are not working inside the American legal system. It is, and I have been asking you, and you heard me say many times, it is a business of being able to trust and have complete confidence in

the people that work with you.

And to think that because we deal in lies, and overseas we may lie and we may do other such things, that therefore that gives you some permission, some right or some particular reason to operate that way with your fellow employees, I would not only disagree with, I would say it would be the destruction of a secret service in

a democracy.

And I also believe, and I would like particularly to say this to you, and I said it to Senator Cohen this morning. I want you to know, and I know we have recently had an agreement—disagreement over—that you may have thoughts otherwise, I deeply believe with the complexities of the oversight process and the relationship between a free legislative body and a secret spy service, that frankness is still the best and only way to make it work.

Mr. Nunn. Thank you very much. I won't go back into that sub-

iect because I know you have gone into it already.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. Stokes, 10 minutes.

Mr. Stokes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. George, let me start out with an area that was just touched upon by Senator Nunn. In reply to his question, you indicated that after Colonel North and Admiral Poindexter testified here, that you discussed that testimony with almost everybody.

Mr. George. It is a national topic, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. STOKES. That is right. Nothing wrong with that, because it is

on the lips of everybody in the country, I think.

But based upon those conversations as it relates to the so-called fall-guy plan devised by Director Casey where, in the event that the diversion ever hit the light of day, that Colonel North was to take the spears in his chest, what was the consensus of those with whom you have talked? Do you believe that he devised such a plan?

Mr. George. Those at the Agency do not.

Mr. Stokes. From everything you know about Director Casey and how your business operates, do you guys devise those types of plans or does the fall guy——

Mr. George. I have never—I suppose overseas somewhere, we'll do something to make somebody look like they are guilty of some-

thing in some intelligence operation, but the fall-guy plan as it came out of your hearings in the U.S. Government context is, I've

never heard of such a thing.

Mr. Stokes. Let me ask you this. Senator Cohen just asked you about [deleted] that came across your desk and I think you indicated it may have gone into your in-box and you didn't pay much attention to it, but I think that you testified in your deposition that you received [deleted] concerning the Iranian initiative, and I think you also said that you didn't read most of it, and I understand that. But in terms of those who have a responsibility to read it, would you have looked to someone in the directorate to bring this to your attention regarding this overcharging matter?

Mr. George. I would have looked upon my Near East Divisionmost of what I remember, and I'm told there is [deleted] from the late 1986 period—excuse me, late '85 period of contacts between [deleted] and possibly hints of American involvement, and that is

very unclear.

Once the Finding was signed, that great mass of material which

I know this committee has or should have [deleted].

I would have looked towards my Near East Division to monitor that. At no time, and I would trust them to monitor that, but no one read that in the detail that ever led them to come to me and say, as it did lead Mr. Allen to come to I believe the Director and Deputy Director and say, there appears to be indications of over-

charging.

I might make a point which has been made to me by several of my Near East and Iranian types, we are not left speechless when we read about overcharging. To us, what that means is you are paying off in the country you are doing business in in order to do business. I charged this but it was really that is, as everybody in this room knows, a common way of doing business in the Middle East, and be it a fair or unfair excuse, I think there have been occasions when people have seen the idea of more money than there appears to be or vice versa, rather than saying, holy cats, the United States side, Mr. Secord, Mr. North, Mr. Hakim is doing it. It was, we are paying off people inside Iran in order to achieve goals. That is a generalization that has been brought to my attention.

Mr. Stokes. As you reflect back now in terms of hindsight, do you think the CIA did a good job of monitoring the intelligence on the Iranian initiative or not?

Mr. George. Was our performance a good performance-

Mr. Spokes. Basically I think that is what I'm getting at, your evaluation.

Mr. George. I'm to blame for most of it because I—I mean of what I know about it. I don't know what the hell an intelligence service does wher it is not allowed to participate fully inside what is basically a clandestine operation.

I think that a terrible mistake was made in the summer of 1985 when, if I am to believe what I'm told, the Israelis came to Bud McFarlane and said, "We've got a deal, but don't tell CIA." I think

you make a great mistake not telling your spy service.

First of all, your spy service is everywhere and starts hearing about things. I think what should have happened at that particular

moment is that we, not necessarily me, but whomever, John McMahon, Bill Casey, representatives from my service, should have sat down with McFarlane and been allowed to help decide the validity of the Israeli request. When that didn't happen, when we played with less than a full deck, as I said, I think we protected ourselves—if I exaggerated anywhere along the line, I became very protective of the institution. I think we did not do badly in protecting ourselves. I cannot be proud of our overall performance because if we would have succeeded, this would never have happened.

Mr. Stokes. That leads me into my next question, because that has been one of my concerns. When you look back at the January 17, 1986, Finding on Iran, it appears to be directed to the CIA. Yet you and others at the Agency have insisted that the CIA played

only a support role in the Iranian operation.

There are some of us who, having some knowledge of intelligence operations, have commented upon the fact that the professionals in this business were not used, particularly when it came to the DEA ransom operation, and in the case of the Iranian operation also. NSC was chosen to conduct it.

I guess the logical question is, why didn't Director Casey fight

this? If you know.

Mr. George. I'll let you in on a secret. The way to handle Bill Casey was outflank him to the right, charge him with being less than adventurous, suggest that maybe he really wasn't ready to take the high risk. What Bill Casey needed around him were cautious people to some degree, not frightened people, but cautious people.

I would suggest, and I guess I can suggest as well as anybody because God knows I dealt with him night and day, Bill Casey fell afoul to a charge in the White House that "come on, Bill, we have had enough of those"—as Dick Secord titles us—"shoe salesmen;

let's get a real operation together and really do something."

Mr. Stokes. That is what I to a large extent sort of suspected,

that there may have been a question—— Mr. George. Please, I'm not sure Bill Casey knew everything and I question a great deal, and it is not mine to question, of the charges made against Bill Casey before these committees and taking the fall after you're dead is the last great fall, but there is no doubt about it, Bill Casey was very vulnerable to the, "oh, come on, Bill, those bureaucrats, let's get out and sock it to them." He

may have allowed himself to be convinced.

Don't forget the significance of the fact of Mr. Ghorbanifar, contacts with Iran, plans for the release of hostages, plans for the development of contacts with moderates was brought to us by one of our very closest allies, in whom we have very great trust, in whom we place a Middle East role of unbelievable significance, the Government of Israel—the Israelis will admit that this was a mistake. so there was a variety of things that happened. Casey's weakness was probably to say, "oh, we'll take a chance."

Mr. Hyde. Would you yield to me?

Mr. Stokes. Yes.

Mr. Hyde. Isn't it a fact that the CIA bureaucracy, as the State Department bureaucracy and possibly the Defense Department bureaucracy, were not hot for this thing at all and there was a fear of Director Casey's that had the CIA been into operations on this that there might have been leaks or there certainly would have been a lack of enthusiasm for it, and better to go with the gung-ho guys who felt this was a great, neat idea, is that too wild a speculation?

Mr. George. Mr. Hyde, I don't agree. I think we have—working within a government structure, we have as bold and as adventurous a government structure as there is, and we understand who the Director is and the President is.

I cannot buy the theory that you won't tell your CIA experts because you believe they are going to say no. Tell them and if they say no, and you think they are crazy, go ahead and do it, but see, they didn't tell us.

Mr. Hyde. Was Mr. McMahon thrilled with this idea?

Mr. George. Absolutely not.

Mr. Hyde. Do you think that played any role in Mr. Casey's

moving in another direction rather than the Agency?

Mr. George. Well, again, John McMahon is as close a friend as I have, and I respect him totally, but John McMahon's life has never been abroad running operations. I would ask, not Clair George, ask Bert Dunn, ask [deleted], ask six other guys, call in your experts and say to them, what the hell do you experts think of this idea. That is what you have experts for. If we had said this really stinks, Bill, Bill is still free to say OK, fine, goodbye.

Mr. Hyde. I thought that was done but I wanted to probe as to

why it wasn't done.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Chairman, I request one additional minute.

Mr. Hyde. If I promise never to talk again in this committee, would you give the gentleman—

Chairman Hamilton. That is too good a deal to turn down. I recognize Mr. Stokes for one additional minute.

Mr. STOKES. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My last question is, in your deposition you say on a number of occasions that you felt it was your job to listen to Ollie North, but that many of his schemes were "harebrained," that is a quote from your statement in the deposition.

Mr. George. I was going to disagree with that statement, but the

more I reflect, I think I was right, they were hairbrained.

Mr. Stokes. Your attitude appeared to be to let him and others like him plan to their heart's content, but not to approve their operations, but you have testified that he and Director Casey were very close. I guess my question is do you think that Director Casey

shared your attitude about Oliver North?

Mr. George. I think Casey looked upon North, he loved North very much, he liked action people. I like action people. Bill Casey was the last great buccaneer from OSS. He was dropping agents into Germany and France and saving lives when most of us were doing nothing. This was a great guy, Bill Casey, and he saw in Ollie North a part of that and he liked Ollie. But you could get to Casey and say Ollie is crazy and Casey would change his mind.

I am a great believer, and this is the point—and we have to watch in hearings like this, we don't want to stop government intelligence officers, all I know, from thinking about, planning about [deleted]. You would also hope that your government employee

would say, Jesus, that sounds pretty dumb. We want to keep people planning things, plans were going on all the time.

Casey liked that. Ollie was a planner and, yes, Ollie had a lot of

harebrained schemes and Ollie had good schemes.

Mr. STOKES. Thank you.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. McCollum.

Mr. McCollum. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. George, I don't want to beat a dead horse, but I would like to followup on those questions about Mr. Casey. Admiral Poindexter told us when he testified that the way it came about that the CIA didn't do the operation on the Iran initiative was after the Finding

was made that Mr. Casey chose Oliver North to do it.

Mr. Clarridge testified that he was personally aware that Mr. Casey wanted the CIA, would have preferred the CIA to run the entire Iranian initiative, but he didn't want to name you or McMahon or anyone else, but he said others in the Agency weren't real keen on it. He wasn't sure of the details of how it came about, but obviously Mr. Casey didn't go with the Agency on it.

Then you told us earlier in your testimony, not just in response to the last two questions, that at some point you went in and told Mr. Casey that you didn't think so much of Mr. Ghorbanifar and after that you didn't run the operation, you didn't have any more really to do with it except logistics. Is that a fair summary of this situation? Was there a time when you actually sat down when Casey said I want to go with this thing and you said I don't like Ghorbanifar?

Mr. George. I was never invited at all, nor my fellow professionals in the Operations Directorate, to comment upon the validity, success quotient of the Iranian arms deal. It was presented to us. Would—that is Mr. Hyde's question again—if he asked us, would we have said no.

Mr. McCollum. Why did Mr. Clarridge say from his personal knowledge he knew because Director Casey had said it in his pres-

ence that he would have preferred to have the Agency do it?

Mr. George. I don't know. Bill Casey never said that to me. I expressed great concern about Mr. Ghorbanifar. I never ever heard, nor to this day have I ever seen, and I understand your committee or the Independent Counsel or someone is beginning to receive information from the Government of Israel—what did they know? Maybe they knew a lot more about what was happening than I do.

Mr. McCollum. When did you express this about Ghorbanifar to

Mr. Casey?

Mr. George. December 1985.

Mr. McCollum. The diversion comment, November 20, 1986—

Mr. George. I had a meeting I attended in the Director's office at CIA as I told Senator Nunn, with Bill Casey.

Mr. McCollum. The word "diversion"—was that word itself actu-

ally used——

Mr. George. I think the sentence—it wasn't the shorthand that it has now become in the United States. I think the statement was, Bill, there is talk that some of the money that was received from the Iranian arms deal has been used for other purposes, which is now in shorthand the word "diversion."

Mr. McCollum. There is a lot of confusion here. When [C/CATF] was testifying, I think [deleted] was down visiting in Central America with Casey and there was a discussion between [deleted] and [C/CATF] at some point where he said he first got the idea and had initially used the term diversion and explained, well, the discussion never used that term, it was about the fact there was a cost difference between the pricing.

Mr. George. Yes.

Mr. McCollum. That had been discovered, and it was Furmark's comments to the Director and that was all going around the Agency at the time. I cannot take from what you are saying, unless you can make it more explicit and strengthen it for me, that the comments made in your presence on the 20th to Director Casey and his response to that really showed whether he did or didn't know about the diversion of moneys from the Iranian initiative to the Contras, but rather simply it seems to me, unless it is more tied down than that as to the meaning, it simply goes further to show that there was some discussion and knowledge going on about there being a problem here, there was excess money, a profit, and maybe that was used somewhere else?

Mr. George. I agree. I only threw that out, that that was my only knowledge and my only experience of William J. Casey to me,

in my presence, expressing a comment.

Mr. McCollum. I am just trying to clarify it. I don't want somebody reading over dry, redacted testimony here coming up with great stories that might not be true.

Mr. George. That's true, sir.

Mr. McCollum. It is my understanding that initially you were opposed to the creation of the [deleted] in the CIA.

Mr. George. That is false.

Mr. McCollum. There have been no problems within the CIA in

terms of turf battles over that [deleted]?

Mr. George. Big problems. Every time you organize a new outfit inside a government bureaucracy, everybody's turf is stepped on, everybody starts yelling and screaming, everybody says there's a turf battle going on between the NE Division and the [deleted] and the European Division and the [deleted] which rages today.

The establishment of the [deleted], I believe, was an excellent idea, and if I might take some credit for it, I think I was one of the people, if not the person, who thought it up, which leads me to ask

the only question of the day—who said I opposed it?

Mr. McCollum. That is what I heard. I am putting rumors to rest.

Mr. George. I have so few good ideas, but when I am told I am against the only one I had, it breaks my heart.

Mr. McCollum. We have a lot of leaks around here. That is from

my sources. They must not have been too reliable in this case.

With respect to the Near East Division, is there cooperation now

going on?

Mr. George. It will work. I like a little fighting inside the outfit to keep the guys on their toes, let them struggle a little bit, who is going to get promoted, the guy that is going to get the intelligence. You have to be a smart manager, know what you are doing. The

last thing you want in your spy service is a lot of happy, content bureaucrats.

The problem, if I may, is that for 3 weeks in a row, and to me it is a shock-1 spent a lifetime "in the shadows." I am finding great trouble having my name in the paper—3 weeks in a row Newsweek magazine called me an absolutely uncontrollable cowboy, and this had me upset. I was nervous.

But then it got worse, because I heard Mr. Secord call me the chief of the shoe salesmen. I think somewhere in the middle there

is the ground I am looking for.

Mr. McCollum. Let's take whichever it is back down to Central America for a minute. Senator Nunn, in questioning [Castillo], who I will refer to as Castillo or the [deleted], so we don't get too many reactions, when Senator Nunn was questioning him in his testimony, Senator Nunn said, "Would you agree with this statement or disagree with it, made October 14, 1986," and what he is doing is quoting from your testimony before the Intelligence Committee-"The CIA is not involved directly or indirectly in arranging, directing, or facilitating resupply missions conducted by private individuals in support of the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance."

Castillo said, "I would have to disagree with that. My participation did facilitate because it provided information. I couldn't inter-

pret that to mean otherwise.

The reason I read that is because the question of knowledge of those superior to [Castillo] has been of great import. In his testimony'elsewhere, when I was questioning him and when counsel questioned him, he made it very clear that when [C/LA] was down to visit, who was then the head of the Latin American Division, when the head of the Latin American Division came down in April and again another meeting was in May for another purpose, but in the April meeting [Castillo] said explicitly in his testimony that he informed the Latin American Division head of the KL-43 and of the communications that were going on, and it has also been brought out that when this meeting [deleted] was taking place in May, he presented some of these matters, and the Latin American Division Chief was very concerned about the political problem, as he put it, and supposedly, though we have never taken his deposition, the notes we have from the interviews with the head of the Latin American Division, came back to report that there were some problems there [deleted].

Do you recall [C/LA] coming to you ever to discuss those problems in May of 1986, ever mentioning the KL-43 or anything?

Mr. George. He never mentioned the KL-43, and I think [C/LA], whom I had yanked out of [deleted], was in a state of shock to be in [deleted], and I truly believe that he, as he testified when shown this piece of equipment, which we know was a KL-43, didn't know

what was going on.

I was familiar with the fact that there were great problems in identifying the manner in which it would have been legal for us to provide intelligence to the Contras and, in turn, to pass it to anyone supporting them, and there was a question whether [Castillo] was making those contacts directly and we advised [Castillo] not to do that.

To the best of my knowledge, he had not done that. When I testified in October 14, 1986, and I apologized to Senator Nunn and Senator Cohen—it was not my attempt to lie—I was fixed on CIA responsibilities, I was hesitant to correct a government official whom I did not know well—I had my testimony corrected for the record with both the House and the Senate Intelligence Committees after I learned what had happened to [Castillo]—let me one more time say for [Castillo], and I know many of you have worried about his activities—I will say, as I said this morning, he is an outstanding officer who was put in a terribly difficult position, and I think I would even be more explicit, I would defend [Castillo] for having had to do what he did—God knows what any of us would have done.

I think the only thing outstanding, and it is not for me to say, is the manner in which [Castillo] explained these things to the IG or other people.

Mr. McCollum. The question is whether he mentioned the KL-43 or not in your Latin American Division—did he talk to you about the political problems, about the problems he saw down there?

Mr. George. [C/LA] did not talk to me about the KL-43. He talked to me about his concern of [Castillo] delivering intelligence information to [deleted] for use by the private benefactors—the manner—we were allowed to provide intelligence to the Contras. The Contras could then give it to anybody they wanted to. Our rules, not the law—the law has never been specific on this—said we, CIA, will not provide that intelligence directly to the private benefactors, and we were worried that [Castillo] might do that.

Mr. McCollum. And you were worried about what was happening—OK, fair enough. But to the degree that your testimony said that you weren't facilitating or there was no facilitation, that was

an error—

Mr. GEORGE. I did not know of [Castillo's] activities at the time through Oliver North.

Mr. McCollum. I understand that, but you knew from [C/LA] that at least intelligence information was being gathered——

Mr. George. I had been informed that had been corrected.

Mr. McCollum. One last question. There had been a lot of talk about leaks, leaks here, leaks there, leaks everywhere. I know you have your famous people who have gone and we have read about them informally occasionally from the Agency, and these have been espionage problems, but in general to the outside world, do you have problems at the Agency like some of the people downtown have with leaks?

Mr. George. I think there have been some leaks out of the Agency. I follow that very closely. One of our biggest problems in the leaks business are retired intelligence officers. Maybe this life in the shadows causes these guys, when they get outside this outfit, to want to tell every newspaperman in Washington. I have read stories in which I am convinced that the information had to only come from inside the Agency.

Mr. McCollum. Do you have rules and regulations about contact

with the press, not just what you say, but—

Mr. George. You are not allowed to contact the press-if you live next door to Bob Woodward, we would tell you to move, but if you live next door to the guy from the Beaver Falls News Trib-

Mr. McCollum. For example, you mentioned Bod Woodward.

You know him?

Mr. George. I have met him.

Mr. McCollum. You don't have the contact with him?

Mr. George. I decided there was only one way to beat this rap. I don't talk to journalists anywhere ever. Actually, if I go to a cocktail party, unless it is embarrassing to the person, I will not talk to them because I really am trying to be Caesar's wife.

Mr. McCollum. And lie detectors, do you give lie detector tests?

[Deleted].

Mr. McCollum. When is the last time you had one?

Mr. George. I had one in 1983.

Mr. McCollum. I think you answered a lot of our questions. I appreciate your time.

Mr. Chairman, it's the last witness I get to question. I greatly

have enjoyed working with you. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman Hamilton. Mr. George, in his testimony before the committee, Lt. Col. North indicated that in preparation for his trip to Tehran, the Director had given him some suicide pills to use in the event he was taken hostage or tortured. Do you know anything about that?

Mr. George. That's absolutely impossible.

Chairman Hamilton. It's impossible? Why do you say it's impossible?

Mr. George. [Deleted]. The rules, regulations, controls, signing procedures for such an activity are absolutely ironclad. It's like the controls on nuclear weapons. And William Casey would not have—I mean, he may have given him a bottle of sleeping pills, but when you talk about a lethal pill to me, we are talking about something that is cyanide that will kill you on the spot. And I tell you, William Casey would not suggest or give Oliver North suicide pills.

Chairman Hamilton. Would he have had the authority to do so?

Mr. George. Casey?

Chairman Hamilton. Yes.

Mr. George. To give North suicide pills?

Chairman Hamilton. Could he have done that under the rules and regulations of the Agency?

Mr. George. I would think not.

Chairman Hamilton. Are there further questions?

If not, Mr. George, we thank you, sir, for your testimony. You have certainly been helpful to us. We have been pleased with your appearance, and the joint hearings will stand in recess until the call of the chair.

Mr. George. I am told that I could be, sir, a trivia question some day. Who was the last person to ever appear before the Iran-Contra committee?

Chairman Hamilton. You might be right. Mr. George. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Hamilton. Thank you, sir.

[Whereupon, at 4:01 p.m., the Select Committees were adjourned, subject to the call of the chair.]

APPENDIX A: EXHIBITS

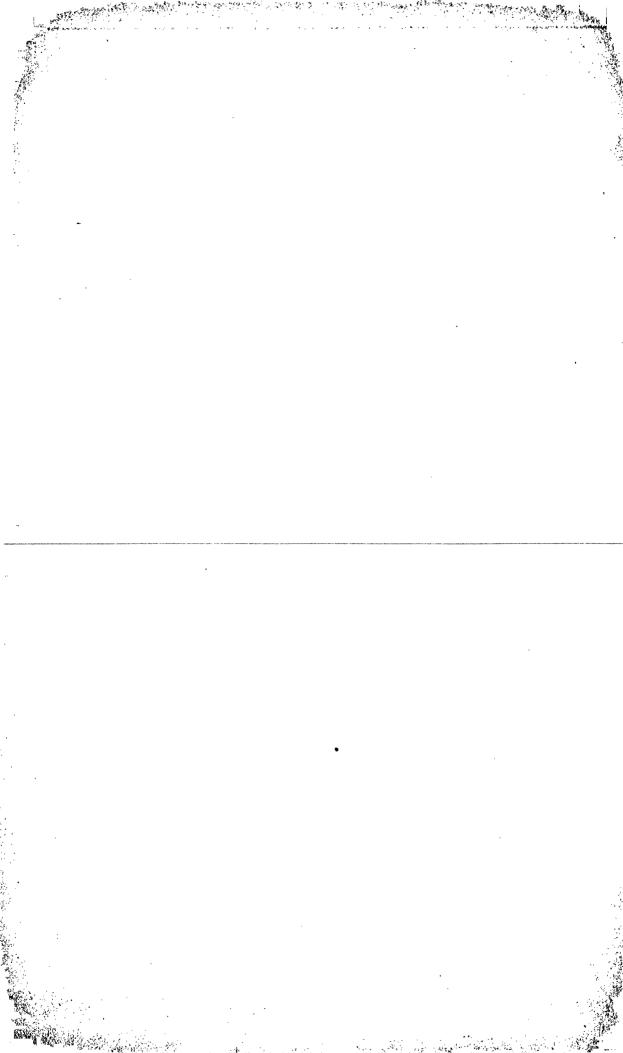
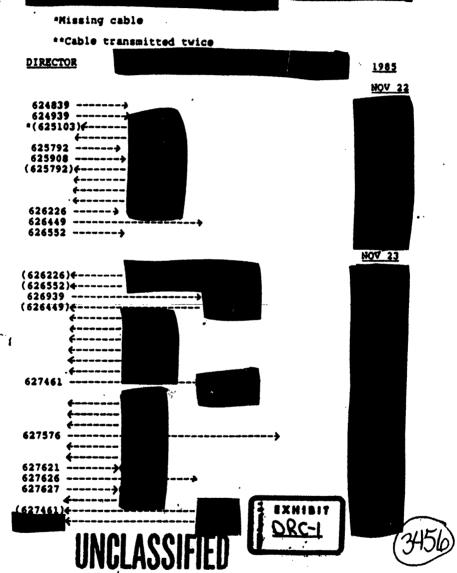


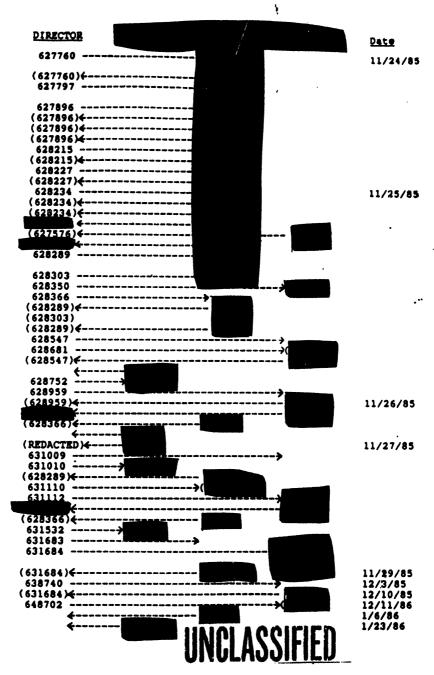
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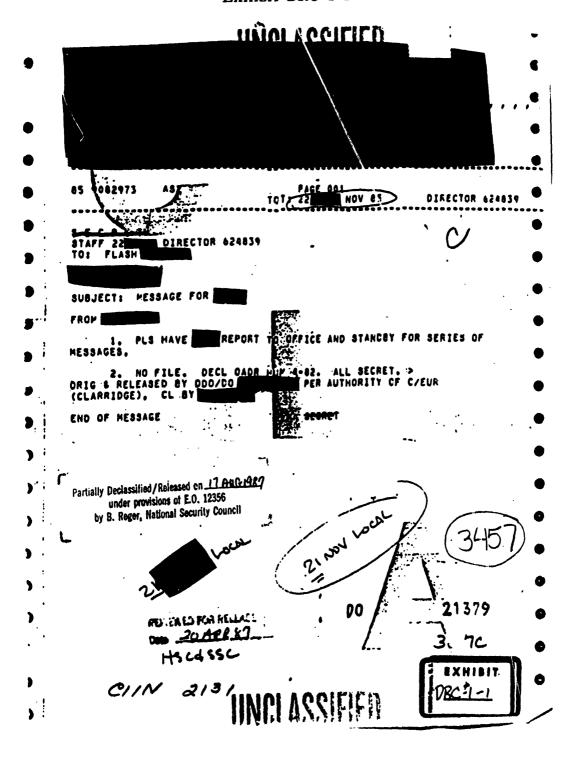
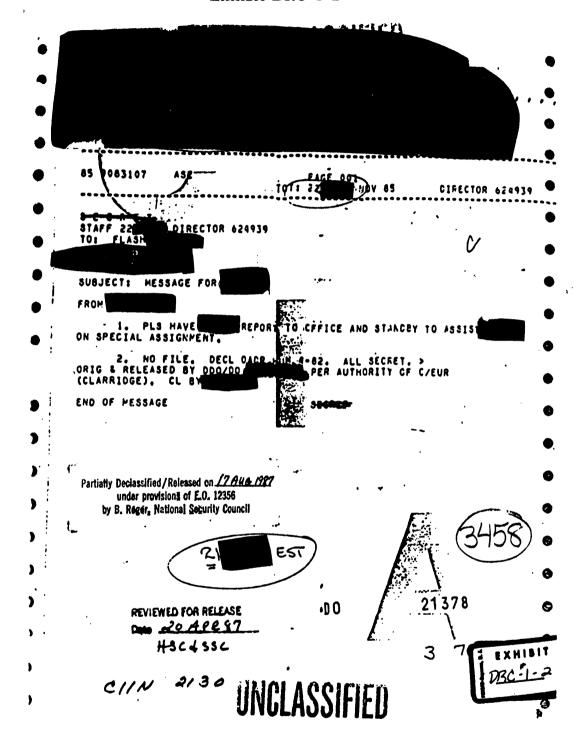
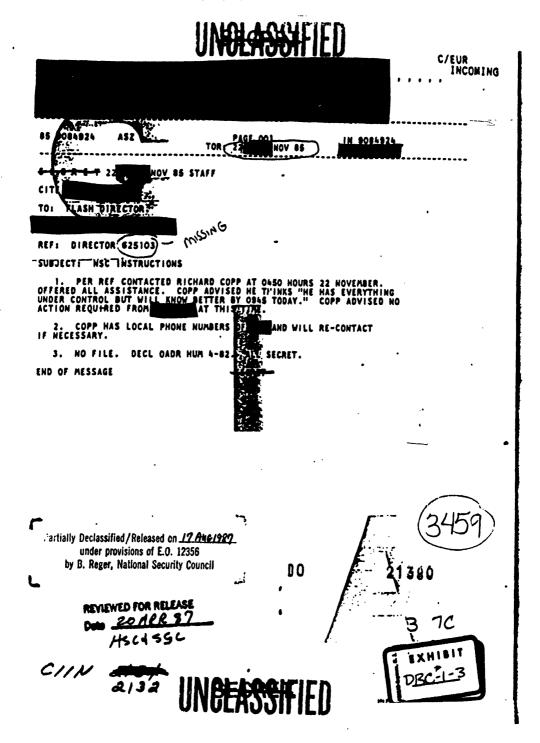
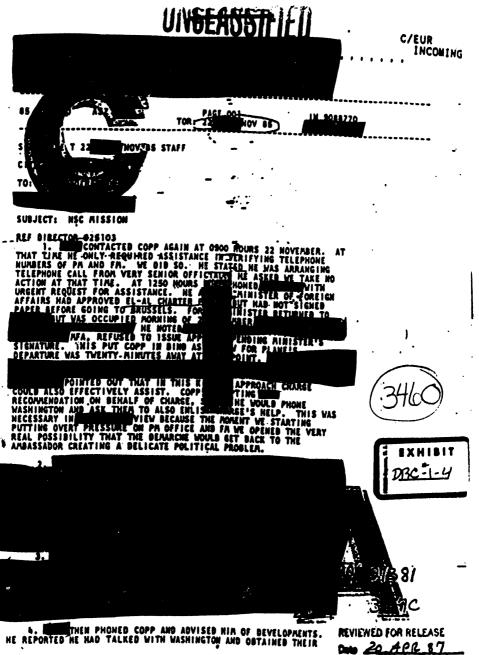


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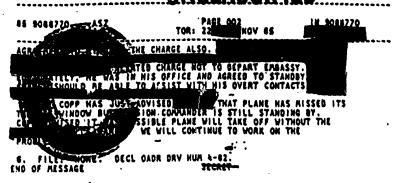
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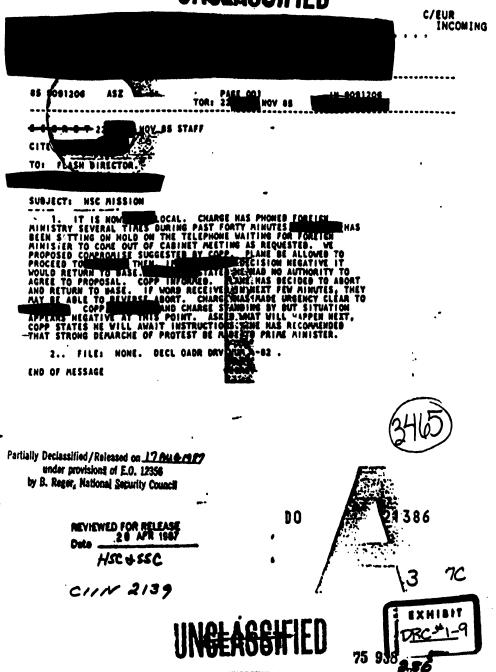
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PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION APPROVAL WILL PRIVE TO ANOTHER FLIGHT
TOMORROW OR SUNDAY.

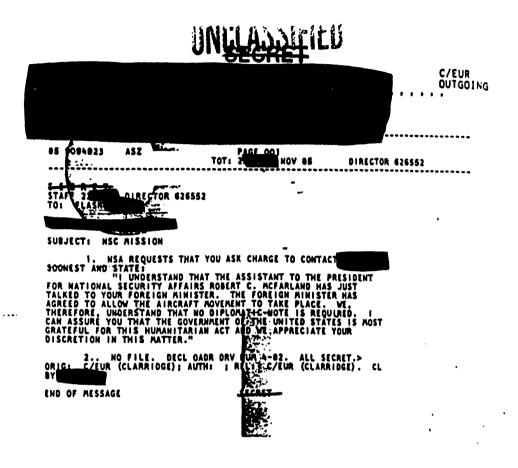
2. CHARGE IS RESPONDING POSITIVELY OVARIOUS REQUESTS AND
ACTING AGGRESSIVELY. HE IS UMRASY HOWEVER THAT HE HAS RECEIVED
NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE DEPARTMENT.
HAS RELAYED THIS
CONCERN TO COPP AND HE IS WORKING TO SUTAIN SAME. IF
HEADQUARTERS CAN OBTAIN BRIEF INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT TO
CHARGE IN HIS CHANNELS IT WOULD BE MELPFUL. TO REPEAT HOWEVER,
CHARGE IS DOING ALL THAT IS NECESSARE THE IS RERELY UNEASY.

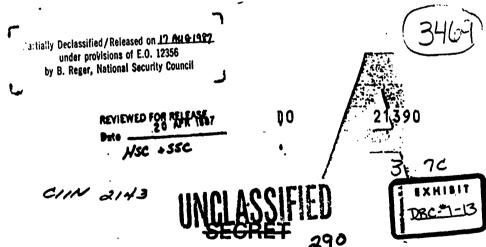
3. FILE: NONE. DECL DADR DRY LULA-82. END OF MESSAGE Partially Declassified/Released on 17 AUG 1997 under provisions of E.O. 12356 by B. Reger, National Security Council 00 REVIEWED FOR RELEASE 20 APR 1987 HEC & SSC CIIN 2140

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		C/EUR OUTGOING
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STAFF 22 DIRECTOR 626	5226	
SUBJECT: NEC NISSION	_ •	
REF		
PRESIDENT FOR MATIONAL SEC IS REQUISTED TO ADVISE CHA OAKLEY ARE AWARE OF THIS O APPRECTATIVE OF THE SPLEND TO ACCOMPLISH THIS HISSION THAT THE CHARGE WISHES TO CHAMMELS.	:	·
2. WE ARE ATTEMPTING T FLIGHT FOR 21 OR 24 HOVENS WANT APPROVAL I	O PUT TOGETHEE ANOTHER SPECIAL ER, AND THIS YOUR UNDERSTANDING WE S CORRECT TO THE STANDING WE	STILL .
3. MCFARLAND IS STILL MINISTER. PLEASE ENSURE T AUTHORITIES UNTERSTAND MHO	TRYING TO PEEPHONE FOREIGN NAT APPROVED ATE MCFARLANG FEERING WHO HE REPRESENT	i. .
	ADR DRY PELL 02. ALL SECRET.> AUTH: ; RELF C/EUR (CLARRIDGE).	cr - ,
END OF MESSAGE	STATE .	•
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	UITULNUUITLU	att

C/EUR OUTGOING DIRECTOR 626449 SUBJECT: NSC REQUEST FROM CHIEF/EUR YOU SHOULD CONFINE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS OPERATION WITHIN TO YOURSELF AND YOUR COMMUNICATORS. THE ANDASSADOR PLEASE REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE FLASH 4. NO FILE. DECL OADR DRV HUM 4-82. ALL SECRET.> C/EUR (CLARRIDGE); AUTH: REL: C/EUR (CLARRIDGE). END OF MESSAGE Partially Declassified/Released on 11 AUG 1987 under provisions of E.G. 123-5 DO by B. Reger, lictional Security Com-REVIEWED FOR RELEASE 20 APR 1987 1C HSC I SSC CIIN 2142





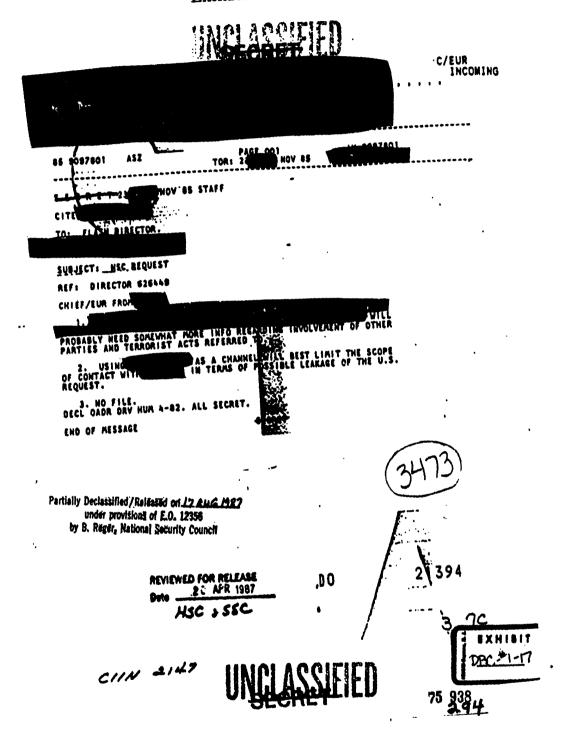
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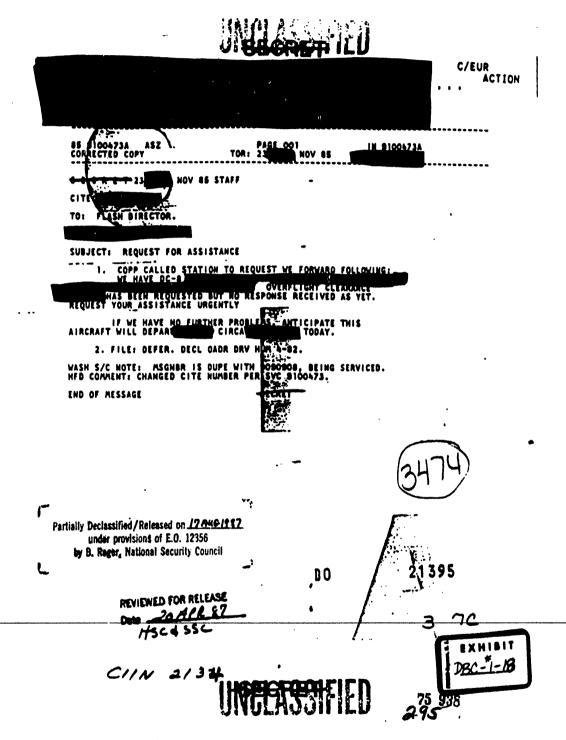
			1	ACTION
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85 8085850 ASZ	PAGE 001 TOR: 23	V 05	5950	•••
CITE TO: LASH DIRECTOR.	45 STAFF			•
SUBJECT: NSC MISSION	1.			
1. COPP ADVISES MSC SCENARIOS: A) REPEAT TO SMALLER BIRDS FROM ORIG C) NOT INVOLVE	IS WORKING ON THREE PODAY'S EFFORT TOPORROW. INATING POINT TO FURTHER IN TAME. TH	DSSIBLE B) USE THREE TO BESTINATION: DECISION WILL BO	Buadle?	ب _
2. FOREIGHT.	HAD CONCLUDED WITH THE PARTY OF THE EMBAS TO AUST SEE	RGE 2200 HOURS GIVING APPROVAL 10 FORMAL		Security Council
DIPLOMATIC NOTE TO FORE CHARACTERISTICS OF AIRCI CARGO. UPON RECEIPT OF ASKED IF WOULD IN WHEN CHARGE COULD HAVE NAME OF AT FM BY 1100 HOURS AT FM COULD WE ANTITY. 1720 HOURS ARRIVAL TIME	ISM MINISTRY REMOTE AND ARCHES TO AMBURAN NOTE FA WILL-CONSIDER NOTE PREPAREL SCHARGE MOURES 23 NOTE PREPAREL SCHARGE	REQUEST. CHARGE I. STATED HE COULD	d/Relea	Kational
WOULD BE THERE WAITING. HOURS AT FM COULD WE AMT 1720 HOURS ARRIVAL TIME REPLIED HE COULD NOT MAN	CHARGE ASK TRAME WILLIAM TO THE APPROVALETHAT AS PROJECTED FOR TODAY IE THAT COMMITMENT.	VE HOTE BY 1100	.ly Declassif	oy 5. Kegar, 1
CAMMOT GUARANTEE THE APPEAR THAT IF WE REET RESPOND POSITIVELY IN SU	RESPONSE. HOW HE FEMAND	VEVER, IT WOULD	Partia	ی
INDICATIONS ARE THAT ANTICIPATE HOWEVER FURTH EPISODE REFLECTED. A. COPP HAS BEEN INF	ARMED AS THE	DENCE AS THIS	34	70)
MSC THEN PHONE TO BISCUS CHARGE ARE CLOSELY COORD		E HIS SHARE THE	D	XH1817 20-41-14
	ARE FULLY AWA REPRESENTS. L OADR DRY HUM 4-82.	IRE OF WHO	3 7	c
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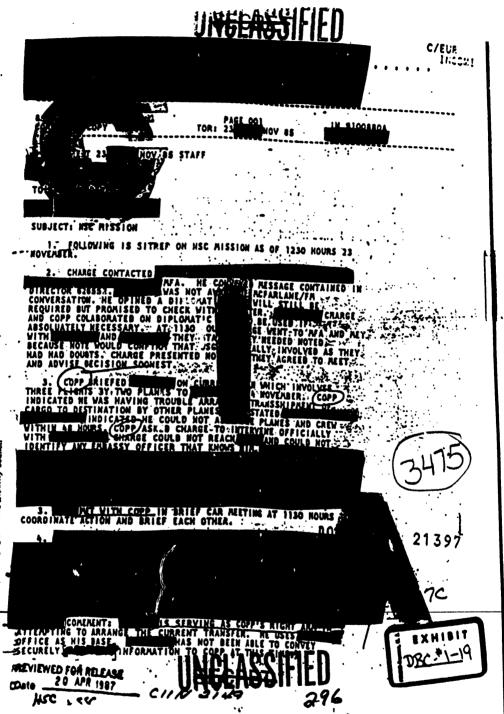
C/EUR INCOMING FLASH DIRECTOR. SUBJECT: NSC MISSION REFT DIRECTOR 626552 2. FYI. I JUST LEARNED MY MOST OVER AN HOUR BY LOCAL EQUIPMENT FAIL HENCE IT JUST CROSSED WITH REF. THESSAGE WAS DELAYED FICH HAS BEEN CORRECTED. 3. FILE: NO FILE DECL OADR DRY END OF MESSAGE Partially Declassified/Released on 17.4 under provisions of E.O. 12356 by B. Reger, National Security Council 1. REVIEWED FOR RELEASE CIIN 2145 DO 21392

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	C/EUR OUTGOING
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STAP 23 COLUMN CTOR 626939	
SUBJECT: NSC REQUEST FROM CHIEF/EUR REF: DIRECTOR 626449	
I AM NOT ASKING FOR ACTION YET ON REF, BUT I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS BY FLASH PRECEDENCE. HO FILE. DECL: OADR DRY HUM 4-82 ALL SECRET.>	
NNNM END OF MESSAGE	·
Partially Declassified/Released on 12446/987 under provisions of E.O. 12376 by B. Reger, National Security Course	(3472)
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7. FILE: N. BECL OADR DRY NUR 4-6 WASH S/C NOTE: DUPE MSGNBR WITH 9090 HFD COMMENT: CHANGED CITE NUMBER PERE END OF MESSAGE



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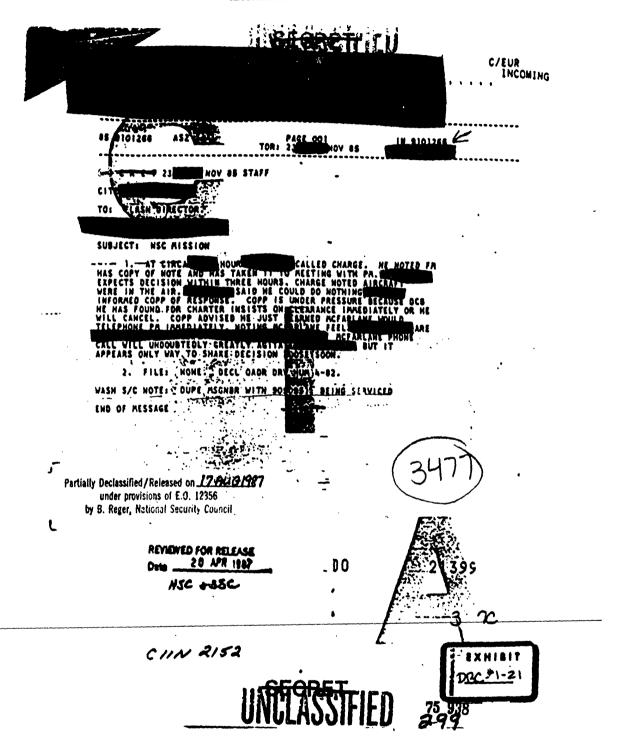


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Exhibit DRC-1-21



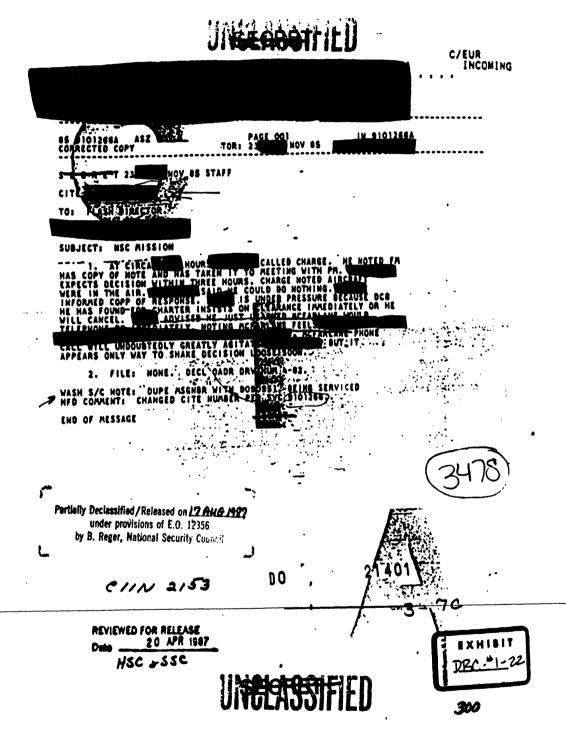
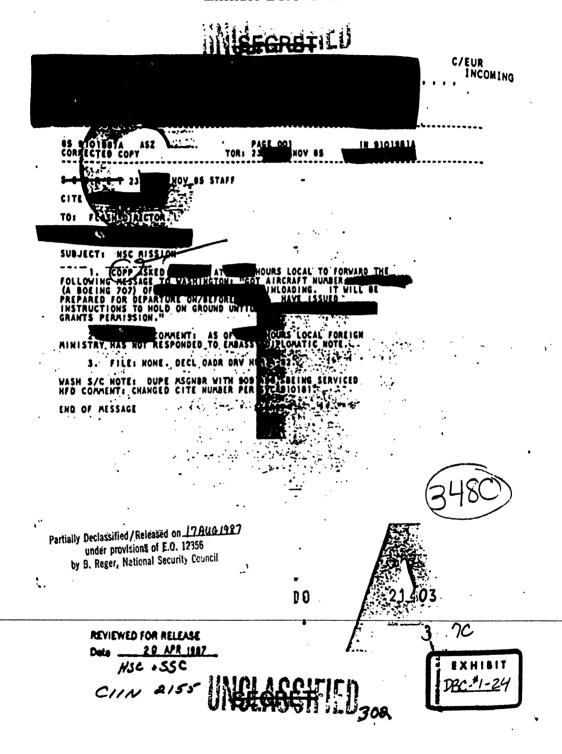


Exhibit DRC-1-23

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TO: CLASH DIRECTOR ESTAGE TO: CLASH ATTENTION OF THE SUBSECT: NECT ATTOURS T	1	
REF: A. BIRECTOR 626448		
1. PLEASE CONTACT LINES OF REF A. YOU MAY STAT AIRCRAFT IN THE NEXT 24-88 HE THE WESTERN HOSTAGES SEIZED	TE THAT THE OVERFLIGHT OF THE RITH LEBANON.	
2. WE WILL PROTVDE TAIL AIRCRAFT AS SOON AS THEY ARE 3. YOU SHOULD ALSO INFO CLEARANCES FOR AM ADDITIONAL	AVAILABRET	
A. PLEASE PULL OUT ALL S: FILE: MO FILE. DEC ORIG: C/EUR (CLARRIDGE): AUT (CLARRIDGE). CL BY	THE STORE THE THIS ONE.	SECRET.>
END OF MESSAGE	A. Seaner	
	<u>-</u> -	3479) :
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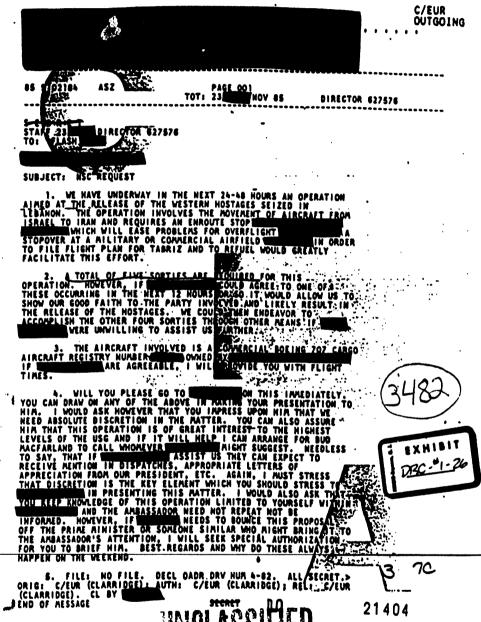


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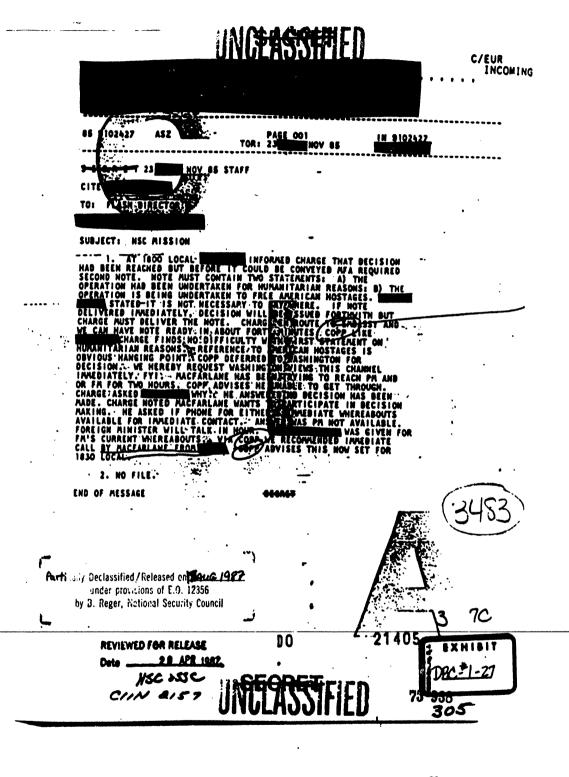


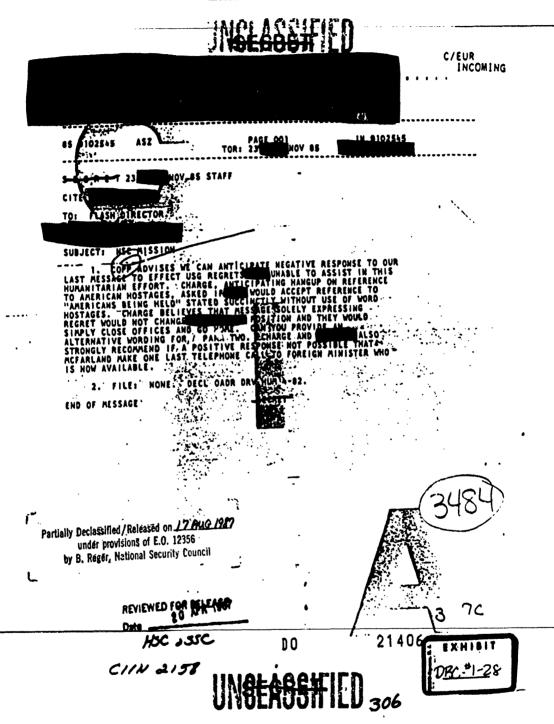


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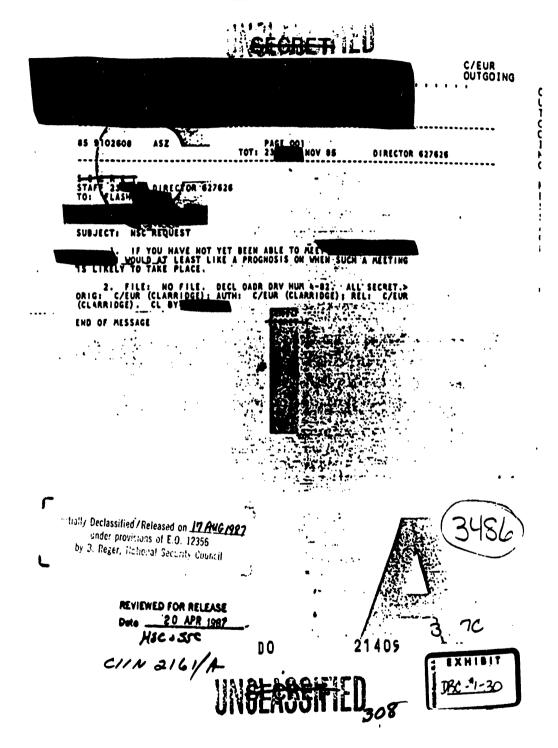




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SUBJECT: ISC MISSION			
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REF:			
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FOLLOWING NOTE TO THE GOVERNMENT REGRET THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WAS	WASLE TO FULFILL T	E: VE	
REQUEST FOR THIS HUMANITARIAN AL	SSION. END QUOTE.	ME NOW	
2. IT-IS OBVIOUS FROM THE	ATIMOM STATES	MOTE SOUN	
ELLICIT A RECONSIDERATION OF THE	SITEATION BY	WE .	
MIGHT REACTIVATE AT SOME POINT. OF THIS. REGARDS.	APPERCIATE YOUR EF	FORTS ON ALL-	•
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STAND INTERFORM \$27627

TOT: 22 MOV 85 DIRECTOR \$27627

SUBJECT: FIRE TPROPOSED IN REF IS UNACCEPTABLE.

ACCIARLANE HAS APPROVED TEXT PREVIOUSLY SENT YOU. PLEASE
INDICATE HAS APPROVED TEXT PREVIOUSLY SENT YOU. PLEASE
INDICATE HAS APPROVED TEXT PREVIOUSLY SENT YOU.

PERSONAL EFFORTS AND THOSE OF CHARGE COPP ET AL.

ORIG: C/EUR (CLARAIDGE! AUTH: C/E

C(CLARAIDGE) REL: C/EUR

END OF MESSAGE:

Partially Declassified/Released on <u>17 Aug.1997</u>, under provisions of E.O. 12356 by B. Reger, National Security Council

Date PO APR 1997

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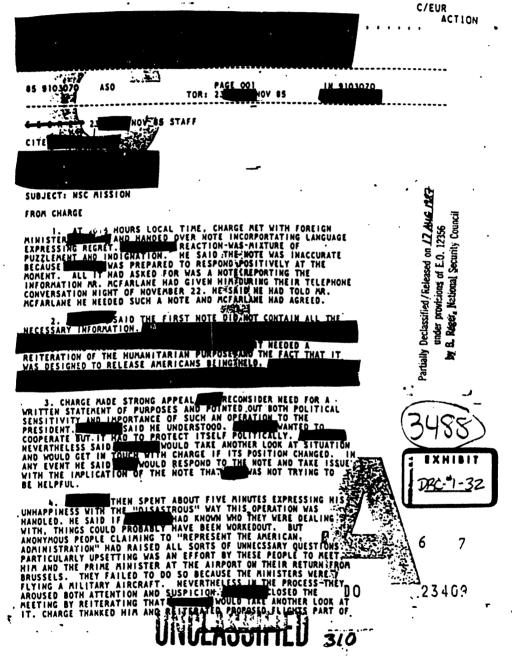
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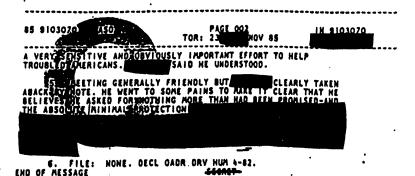








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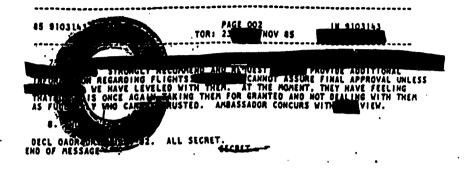
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SUBSEQUENTLY MITH
THEM DOWN WAS NOT RAPIDLY ACCOMPLISHED. OFFI
PROVIDED INFORMATION AND NOTED A NUMBER - INDIVIDUAL
BE CONTACTED IN ORDER SEEK AGREEMENT TO TERFLIGHTS GAT, TRACKING 2. AT APPROXIMATELY 2200 LOCAL PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WERE IN CENTER MFA SHOULD BE APPROACHED DIRECTLY. REPORTED MILITARY AND DECIDED BRIEF AMBASSA-DON DUE HECESSITY DEAL DIRECTLY WITH WA. PER REFS. HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO THE OVERFLIGHT REQUESTS BUT NOT FOLLOWING WHICH WOULD BELIEVE MECESSARY TO THEIR FINAL DECISION: A. SOME IDEA OF WHAT THE AIRCRAFT WOULD CARRY AS PRESUMABLY THEY WOULD NOT BE EMPTY: EXHIBIT 8. OVERFLIGHT OF THREE AIRCRAFT SIMULTANEOUSLY OR CLOSELY TO THE WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE. HE SUGGESTED 24 HOUR STAGGERING: WITH 12 TO 18: DRC-41-33 National Security 7 WISHED ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST BOUT FELL THEY ENTITLES TO MORE FORMATIONS THAN SO FAR PROVIDED. Reger, THEY HEEDED IN ADDITION TO SOME MORE TO SOME MORE TO SOME MORE TO SOME MOULD FLIGHTS CALL ADVERSE AS TO SOME MORE TO SOME TO SOME MORE TO SOME TO SOM ക് WE ARE A LITTLE MORE FORTHCOMING ABOUT WHAT IS INVOLVED. THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE ENTITLED TO SUCH COMMENTATION OF THEY BELIEVE REVIEWED FOR RELEASE ۲.

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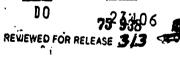






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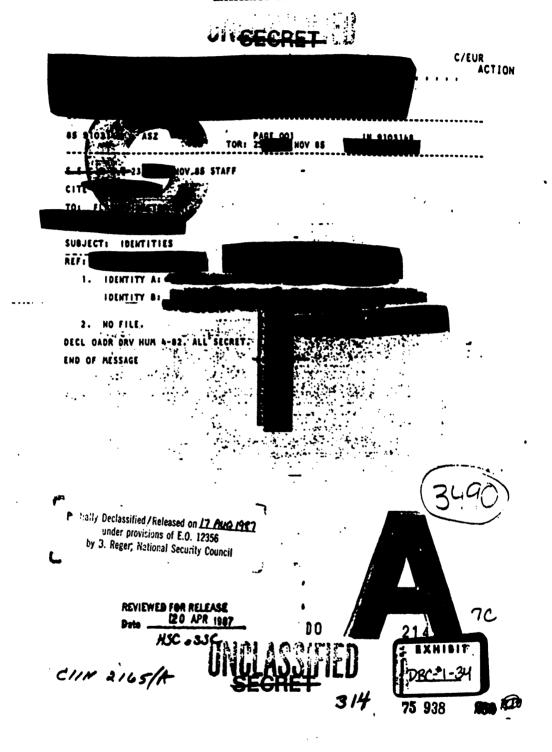
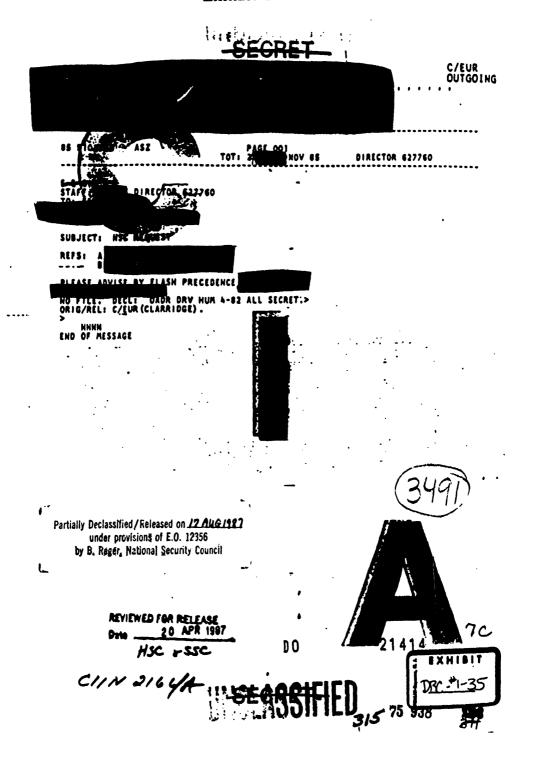


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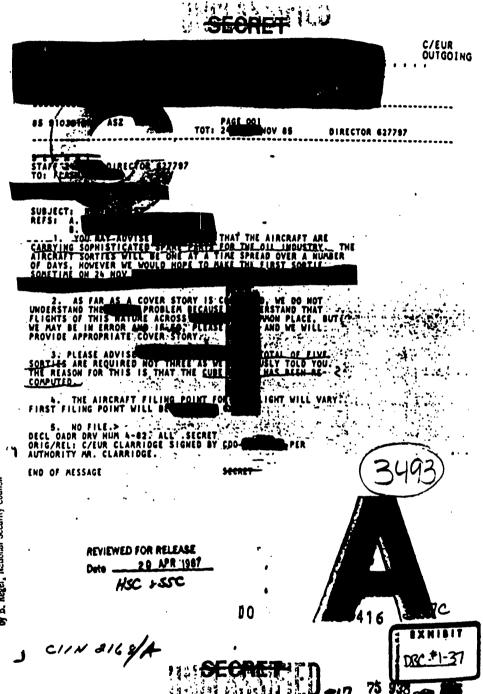
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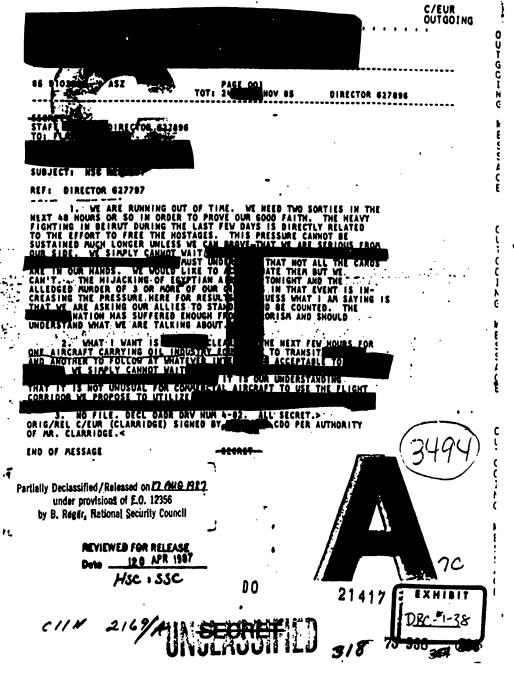
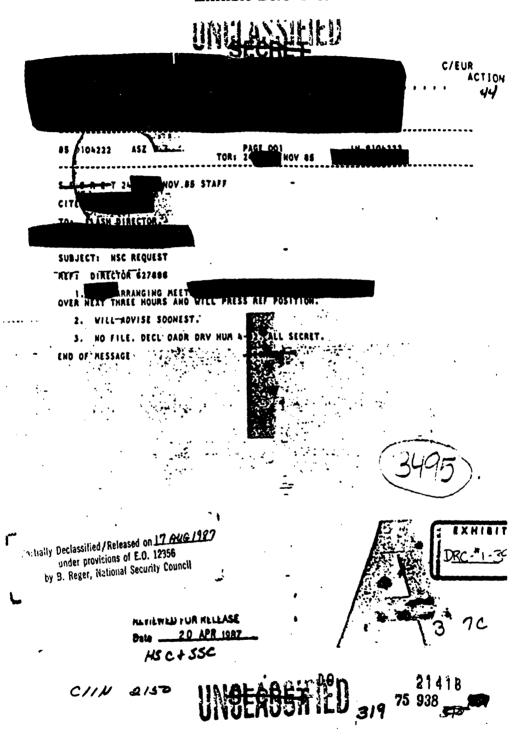
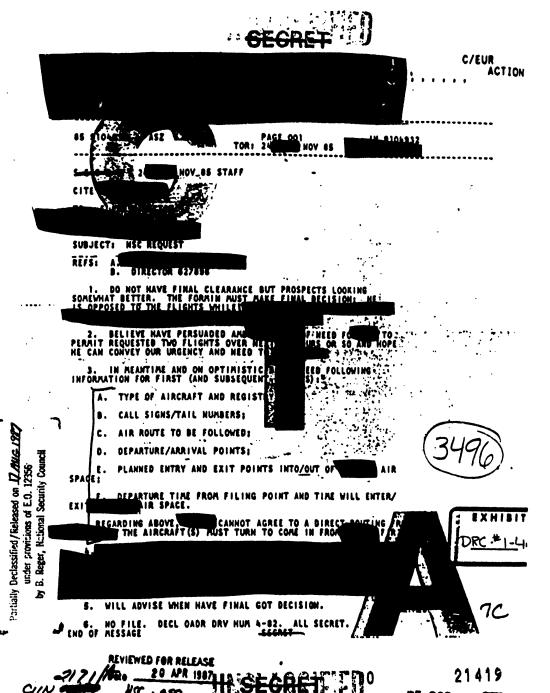
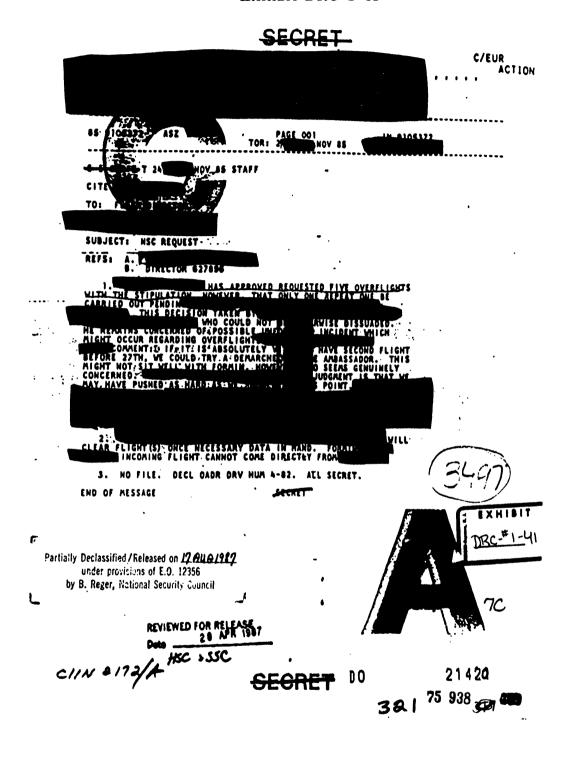


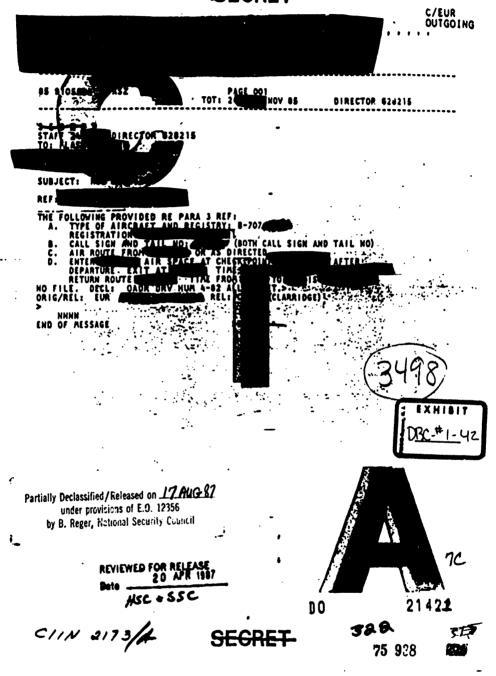
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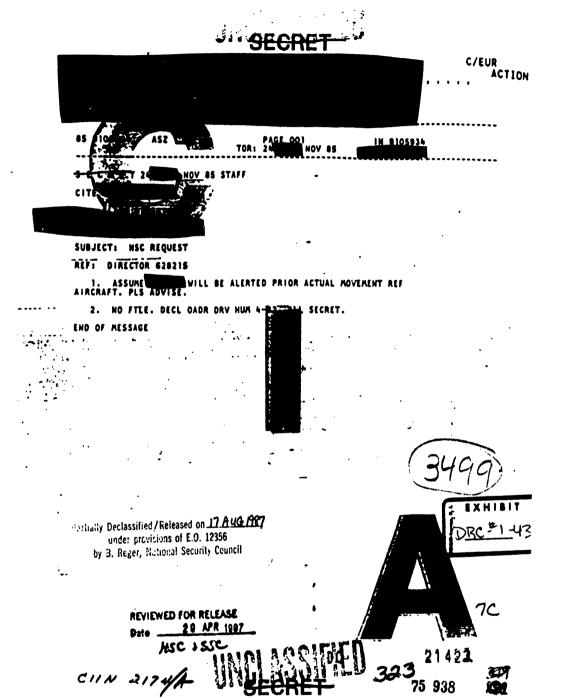
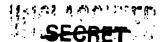
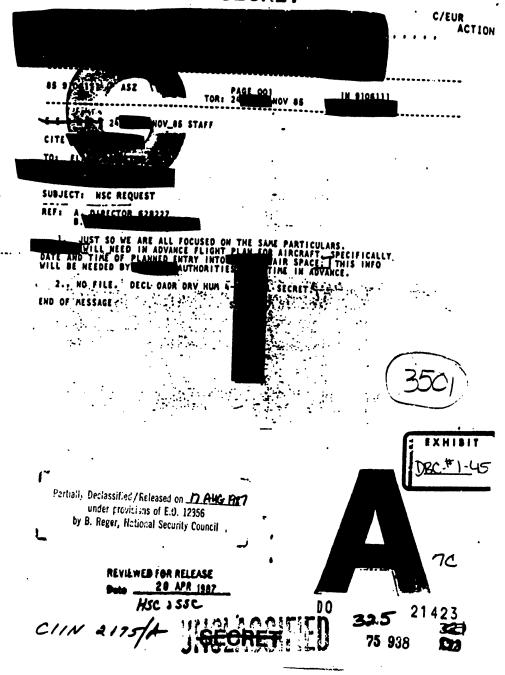


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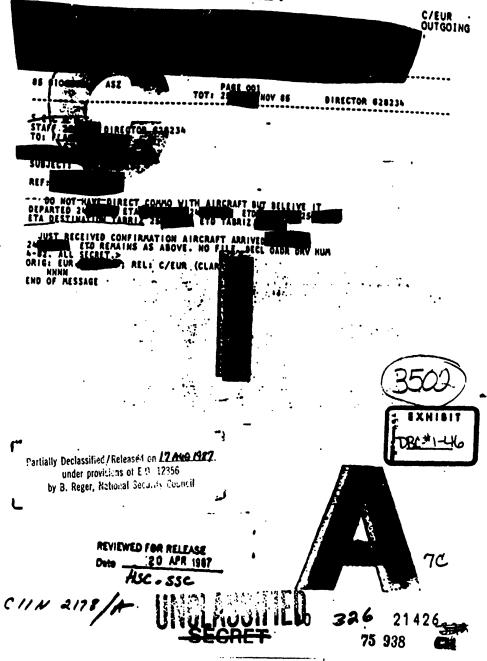
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SUBJECT: MSC STATE AND COLOREGO CLASS TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE APPROXIMATE THAT AIRCRAFT PERATS. NO FILE. DECL. GASS DAY HUM A-D2 ALL SECRET. ON FILE. DECL. GASS DAY HUM A-D2 ALL SECRET. NO HUMAN END OF RESSAGE Declassified / Released on TIME 1987 Under Stockhard of E.O. 12356 by 3. Reyer, National Security Council REVIEWED FOR RELEASE Deta 120 APR 1307 AUC > 55C CIIN 2/72/A 21 425			OUTGOING
SUBJECT: MSC STATE AND COLOREGO CLASS TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE APPROXIMATE THAT AIRCRAFT PERATS. NO FILE. DECL. GASS DAY HUM A-D2 ALL SECRET. ON FILE. DECL. GASS DAY HUM A-D2 ALL SECRET. NO HUMAN END OF RESSAGE Declassified / Released on TIME 1987 Under Stockhard of E.O. 12356 by 3. Reyer, National Security Council REVIEWED FOR RELEASE Deta 120 APR 1307 AUC > 55C CIIN 2/72/A 21 425			
SUBJECT: MSC STATE AND COLOREGO CLASS TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE APPROXIMATE THAT AIRCRAFT PERATS. NO FILE. DECL. GASS DAY HUM A-D2 ALL SECRET. ON FILE. DECL. GASS DAY HUM A-D2 ALL SECRET. NO HUMAN END OF RESSAGE Declassified / Released on TIME 1987 Under Stockhard of E.O. 12356 by 3. Reyer, National Security Council REVIEWED FOR RELEASE Deta 120 APR 1307 AUC > 55C CIIN 2/72/A 21 425			
SUBJECT: MSC SUBJECT OF OUR KNOWLEDGE APPROXIMATE THE AIRCRAFT DEPARTS. NO FILE. DECL. OLD DY HUM A-92 ALL SECRET. ON FILE. EUR PREIS CEUR (CLARRAIDGE). NAMN END OF RESSAGE: Declassified / ficiesased on 17 Mac 1987 Under Provincies of E.O. 12356 by 3. Reger, National Security Council REVIEWED FOR RELEASE NO 12372/A CIIN 2172/A 21425	85 9 10000 ASE	PAGE 001	
SUBJECT: MSE REFI MILL ADVISE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE APPROXIMATE TIME AIRCRAFT DEPARTS. NO FILE: OECI: OLDS PAY HUM A-82 ALL SECRET.> ORIGINATE: - CUR RELI: C/EUR (CLARRIDGE). HNNNH END OF RESSAGE Which promises of E.O. 12356 by 3. Reger, National Security Council REVIEWED FOR RELEASE Dots 120 APR 1987 AUC > 55C C// N 2/72/A USUAL SECRET. 324 21425		TOT: 2 NOV 85	DIRECTOR 628227
SUBJECT: MSE REFI MILL ADVISE TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE APPROXIMATE TIME AIRCRAFT DEPARTS. NO FILE: OECI: OLDS PAY HUM A-82 ALL SECRET.> ORIGINATE: - CUR RELI: C/EUR (CLARRIDGE). HNNNH END OF RESSAGE Which promises of E.O. 12356 by 3. Reger, National Security Council REVIEWED FOR RELEASE Dots 120 APR 1987 AUC > 55C C// N 2/72/A USUAL SECRET. 324 21425	entitle.	•	•
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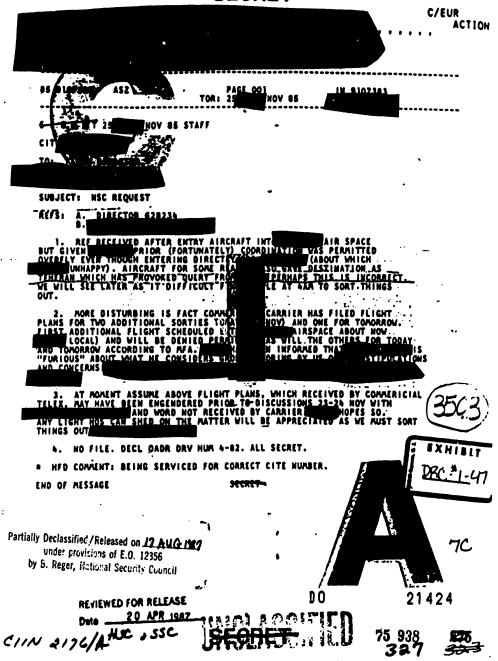




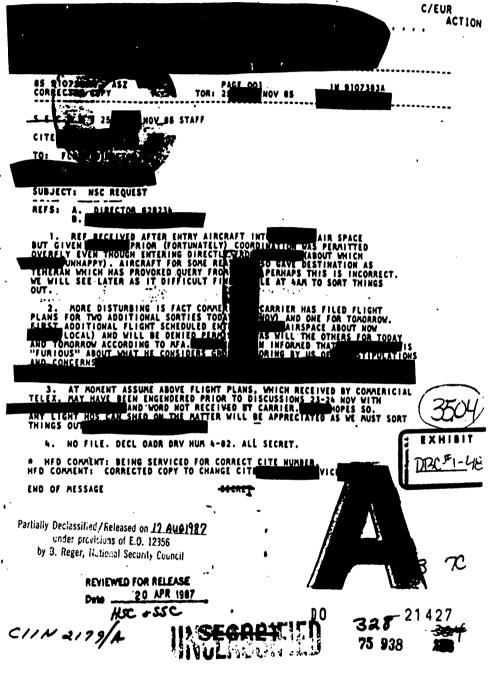
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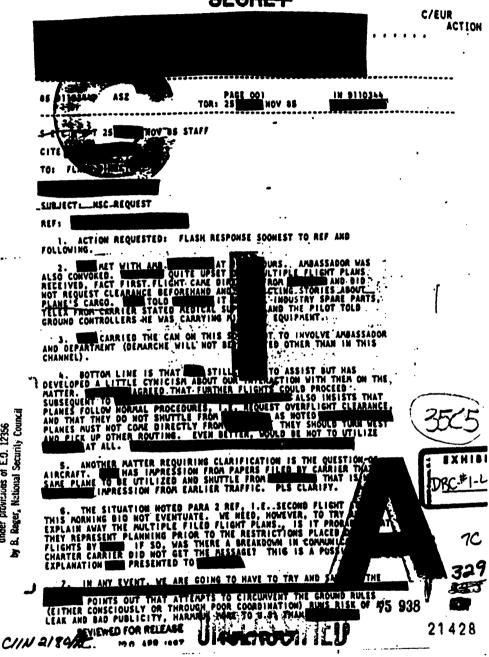




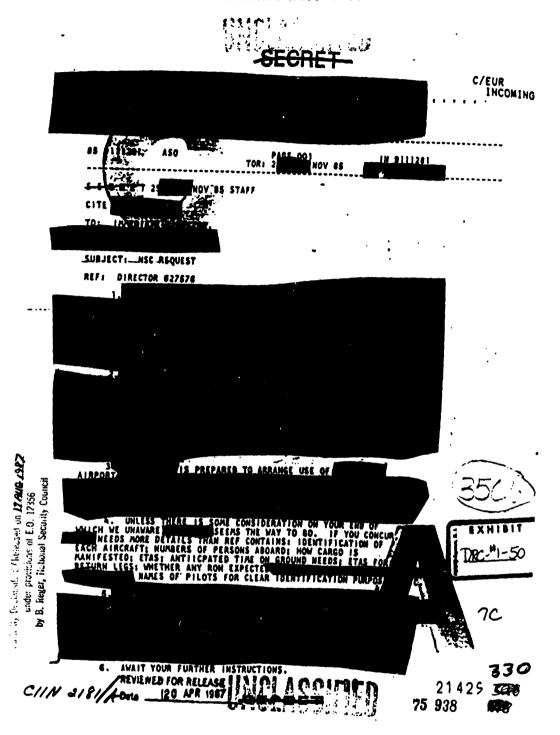


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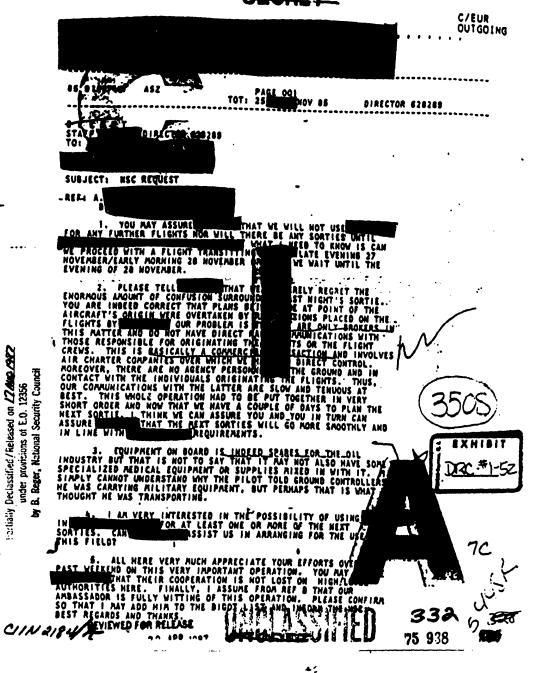
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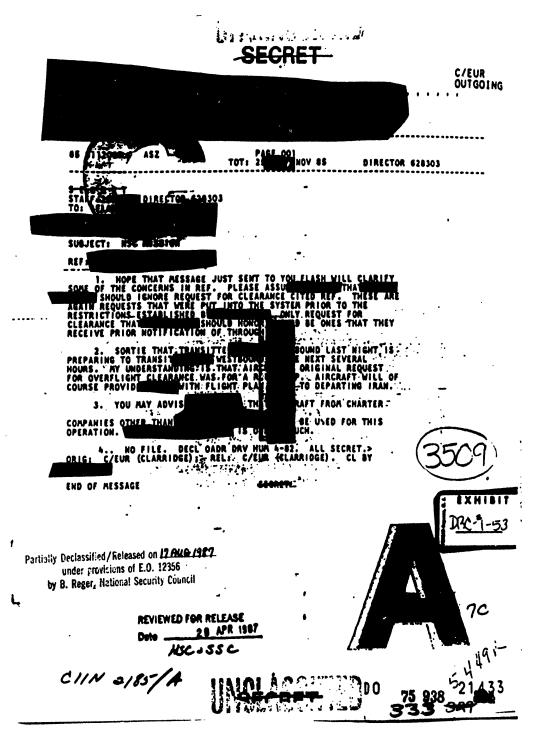
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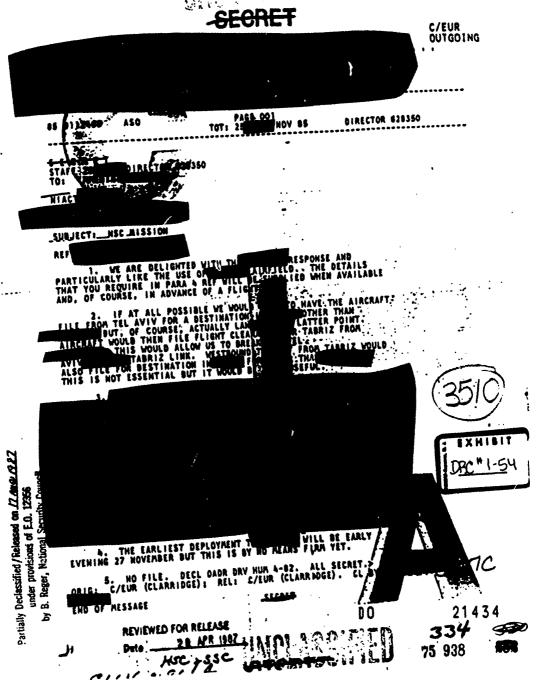
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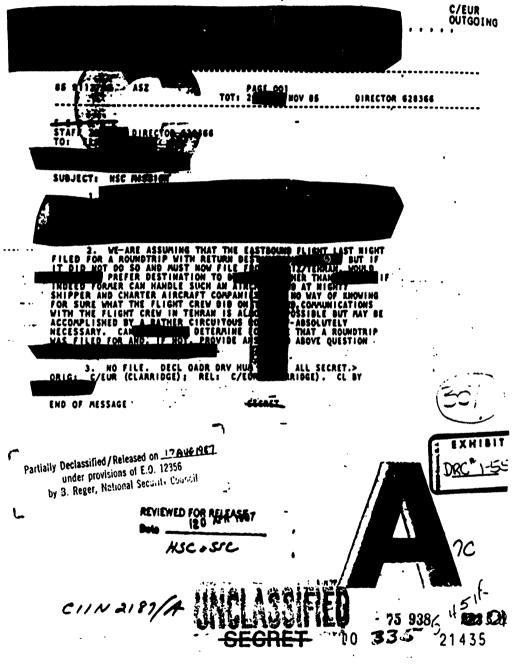
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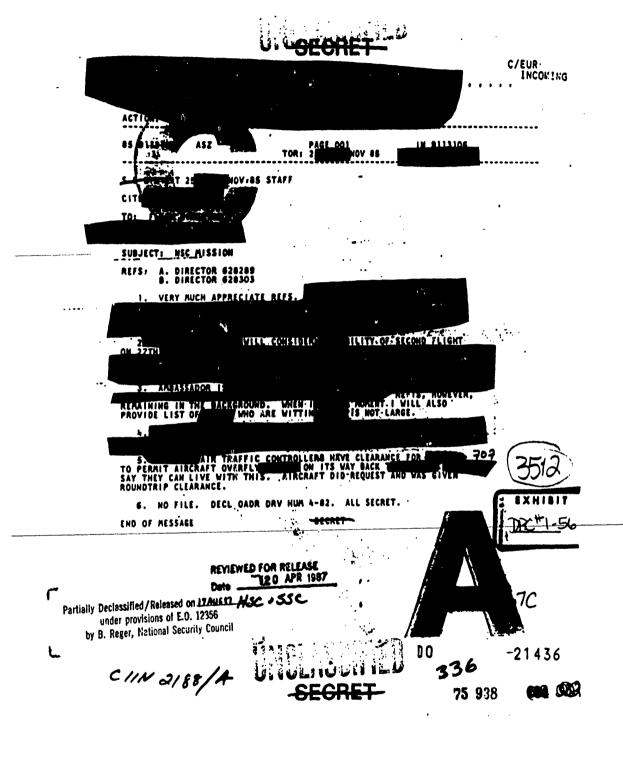




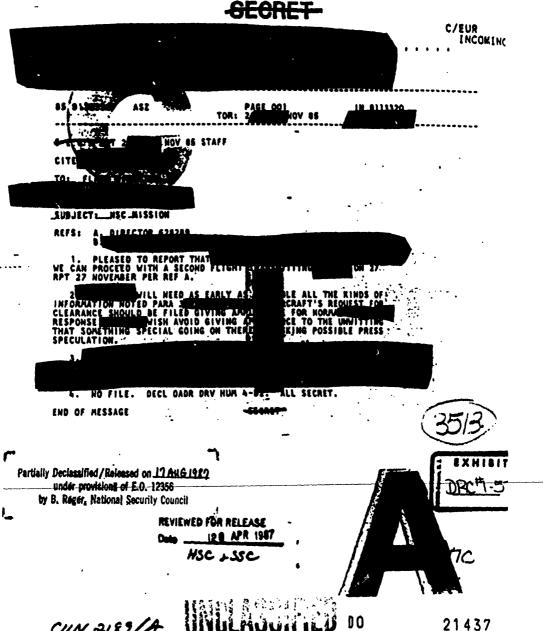


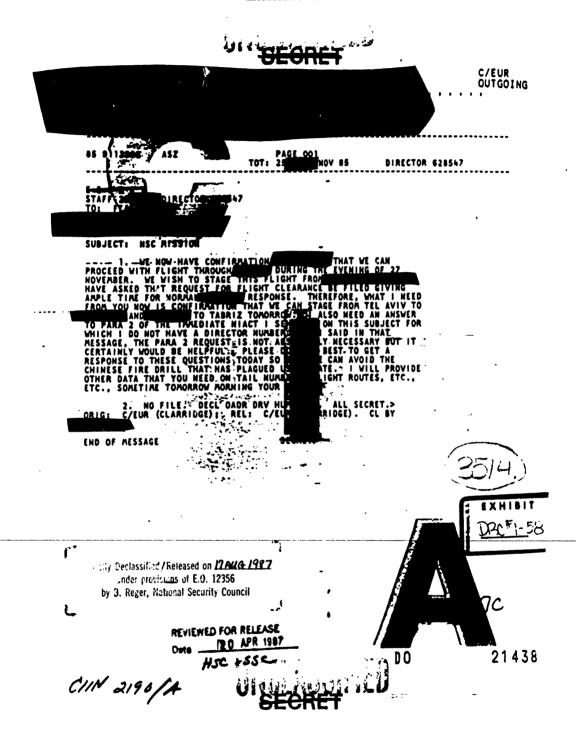
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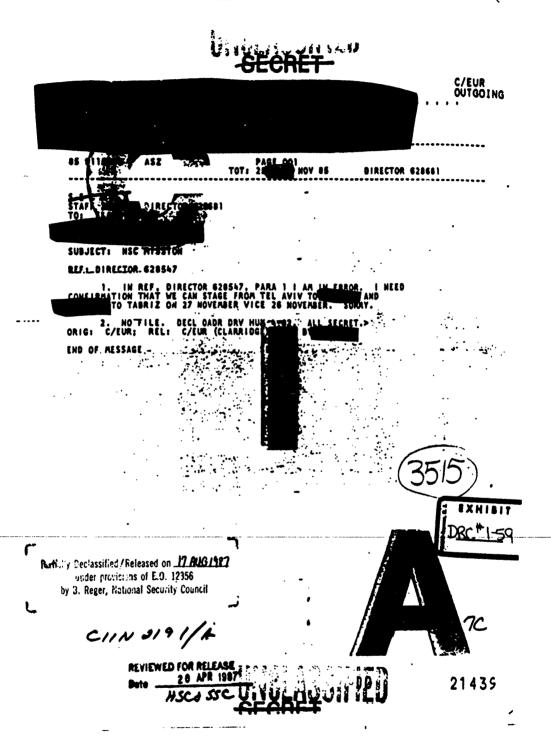


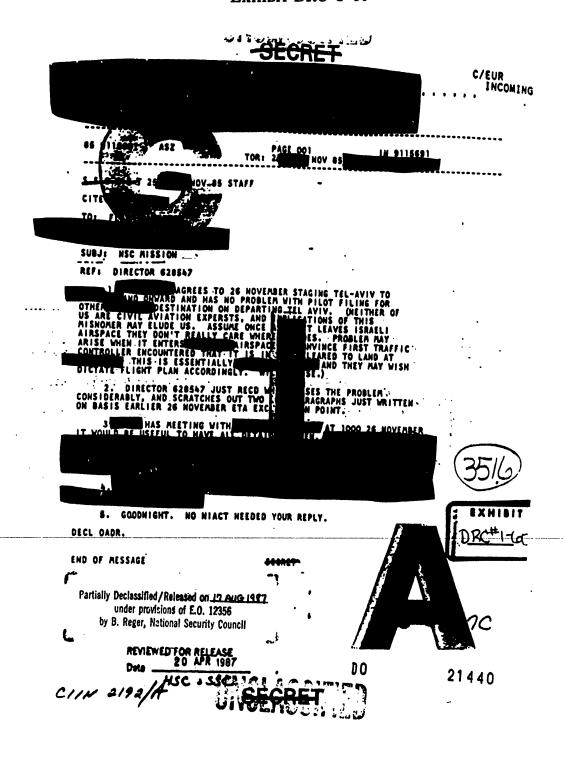












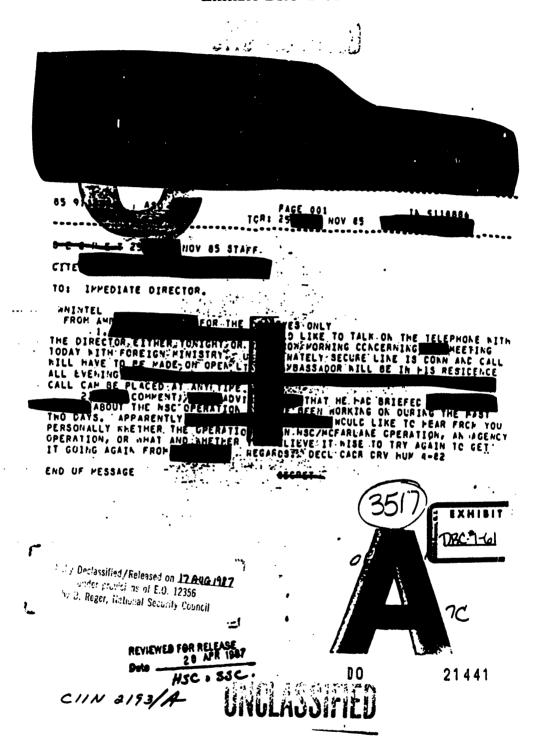
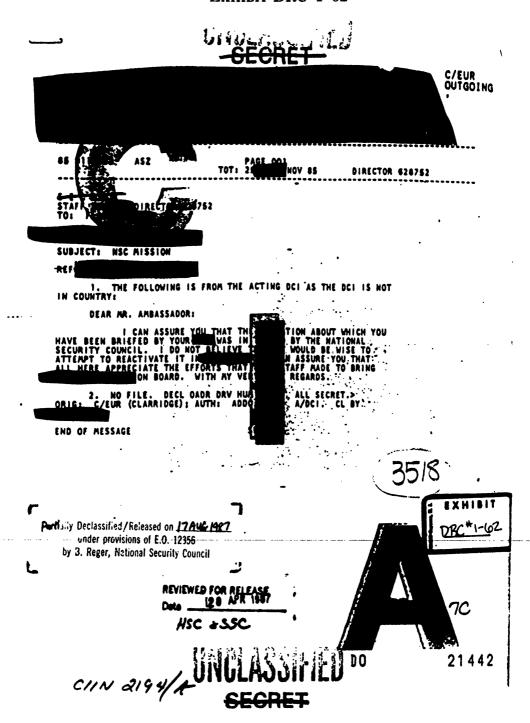
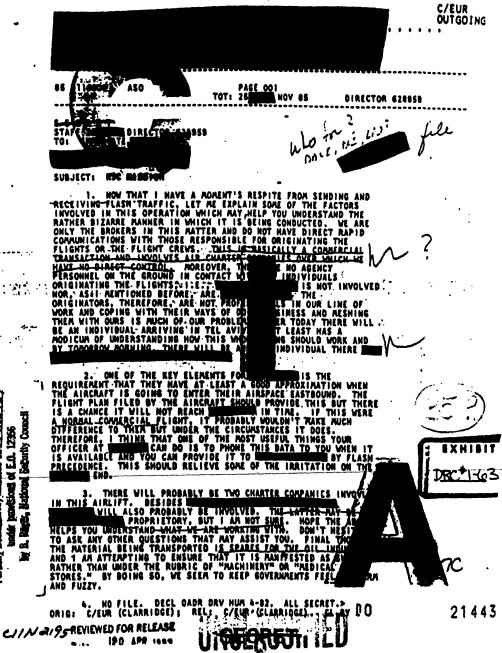


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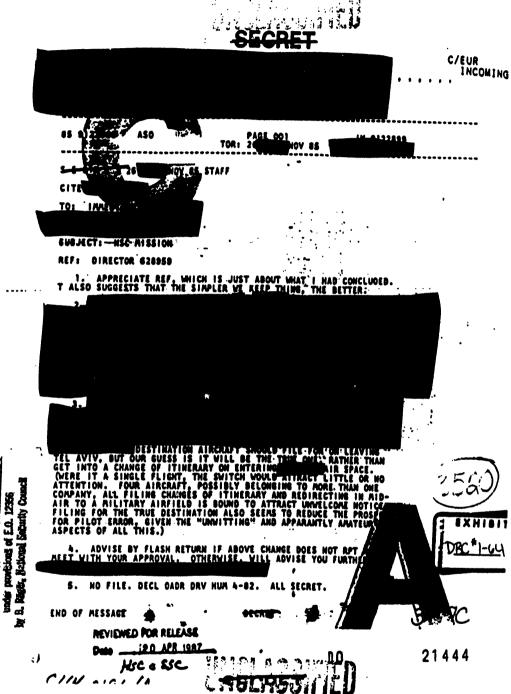




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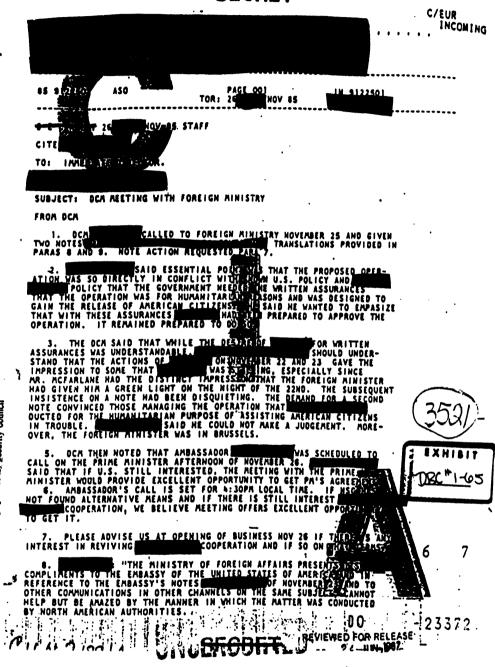
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"IN EFFECT. AND AS IS KNOWN BY THE EMBASSY

DESCRIPTION OF THAT IT HAD INITIALLY BEEN HADE AWARE

THE DESCRIPTION VIA PRIVATE CHANNELS, WHICH ARE CLEARLY
CATED TO THE SECUR. A LOVISOR OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
THE THE TOT OF THE ROOMER LATIONS THAT EXIST RETUREN OUR TWO COUNTSERING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WILLINGNESS

TO PROVIDE RAPID RESPONSES IN SUCH CASES.

THE SURFICE OF THE FOREGOING. THE EMBASSY WILL NOT BE SHOCKED BY THE SURFICE SE WITH WHILE ACCEIVE WHICH WAS MOVING WITH ALL POSSERS OF ACCEIVE COMPORMITY WITH WHAT HAD BEEN AGREED.

"THE PROPERTY OF OREIGN AFFAIRS TAKES THE OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IS SUPPLEMENTING NOTE OF TODAY HAS THE HONOR TO COMMUNICATE THE FOLLOWING .

"THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BELIEVES IT IS NECESSARY TO RECALL THE ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE ESSENTIAL MITH RELATION TO THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF DE PASSE PATERIAL DESTINED FOR IRAN."

AFFAIRS THAT IT HAD BEEN ASKED TO "ASS." THE TRANSIT OF TOREIGN THAN "WITH THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND "WITH THE FOLLOWING DAY TO BE TRANSPORTED BY TWO AIRCRAFT.

"NO INDICATION WAS PROVIDED WITH RETTO THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE MATERIAL, NOR TO THE AIRCRAFT, MUCK TO THE MANNER IN WHICH THE MATERIAL TO BE TRANSPORTED WOULD ARB

"THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IN ADDITION TO THE IMPORTANT REFERENCE TO CONTACTS OF WITH THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION, CAUSED THE MINISTRY TO RAISE IT WITH EMBASSY TO FOLLOWING MORNING. HE SAID HE KNEW MOTHING OF THE PROJECTED OPER-

"ON FRIDAY AFTERNOON HOVEMBER 22, MR MCFARLANE, NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA, TRIED TO CONTACT THE FOREIGN MINISTER. HE WAS ABLE TO DO SO ONLY THAT NIGHT.

"THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TOLD MR. MCFARLANE THAT IT TOUGH BE NECESSARY TO RECEIVE AN UNGENT NOTE FROM THE EMBASSY TO BE PRESENTED BY THE CHARGE. AFTER THAT, IT WOULD RECEIVE PROMPT AND URGENT CONSIDERATION.

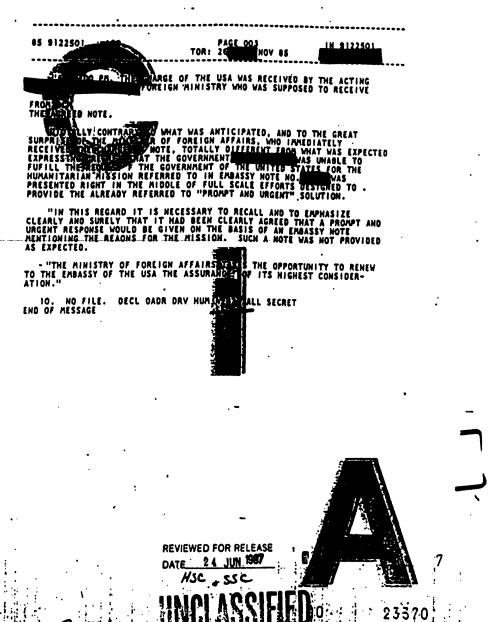
"SATURDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 23, THE CHARGE DELIVERED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTE WITH THAT INFORMATION ASHUCH AS THAT NOTE OMITTED INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE CHARLING HUMANITARIAN MOTIVES RELATED TO THE DETENTION OF AMERICAN

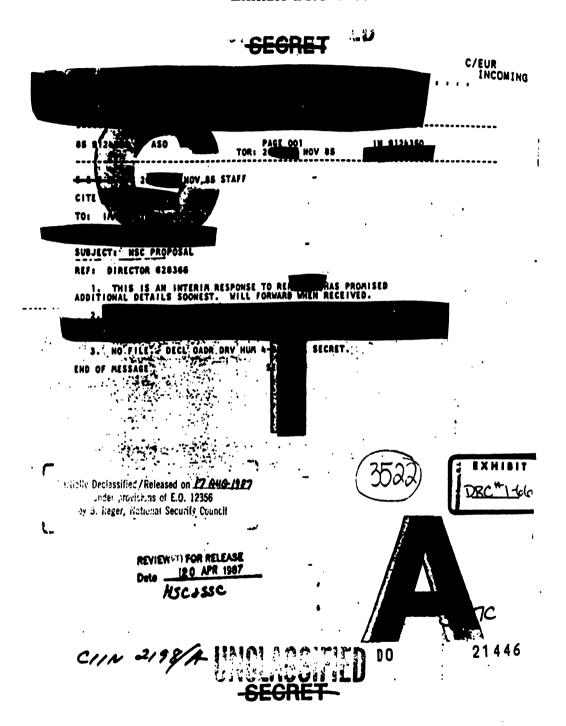
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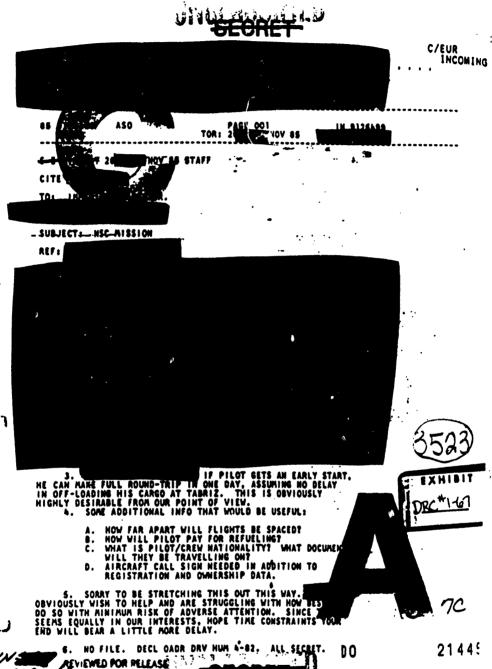
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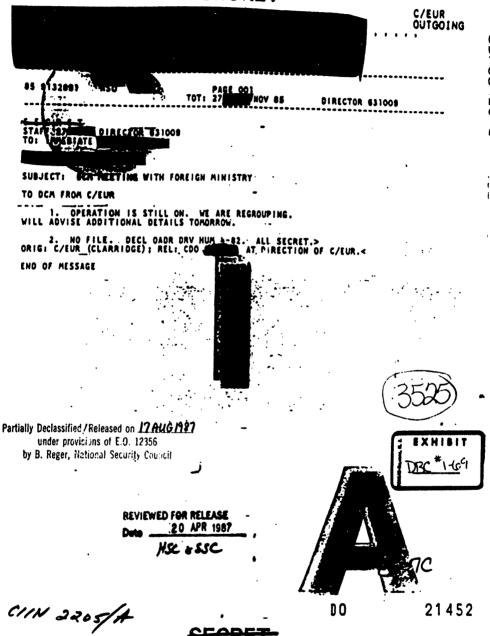
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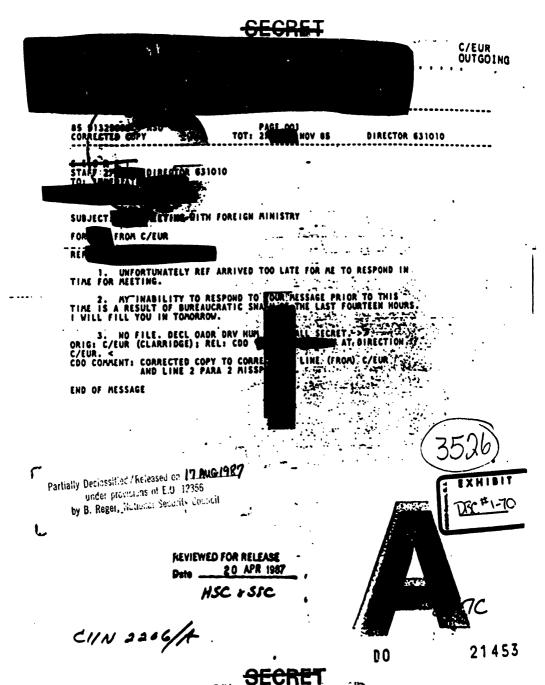
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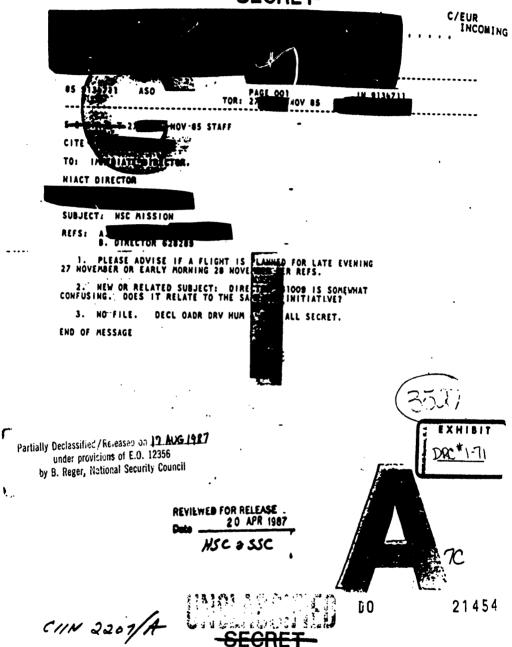
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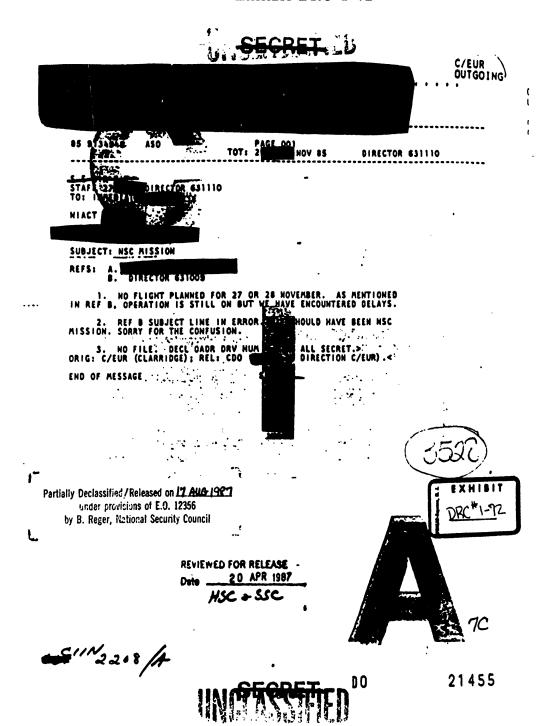
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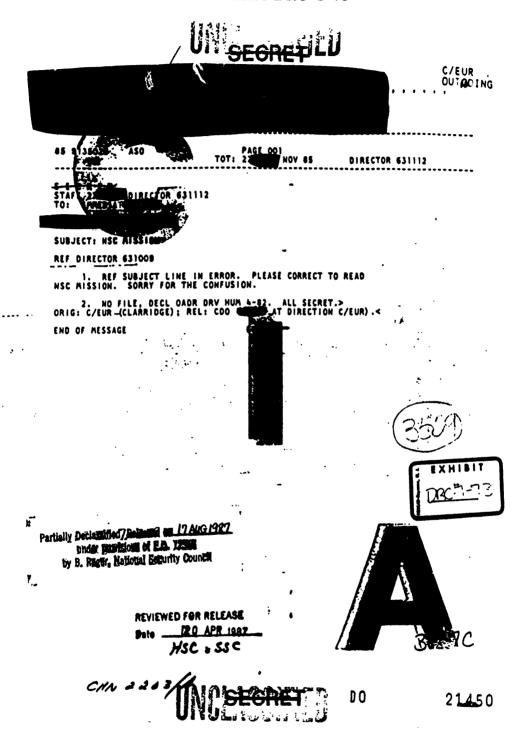


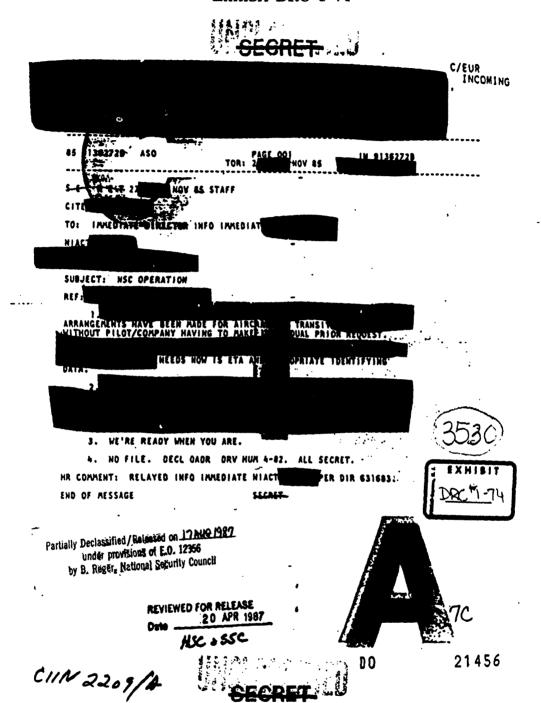


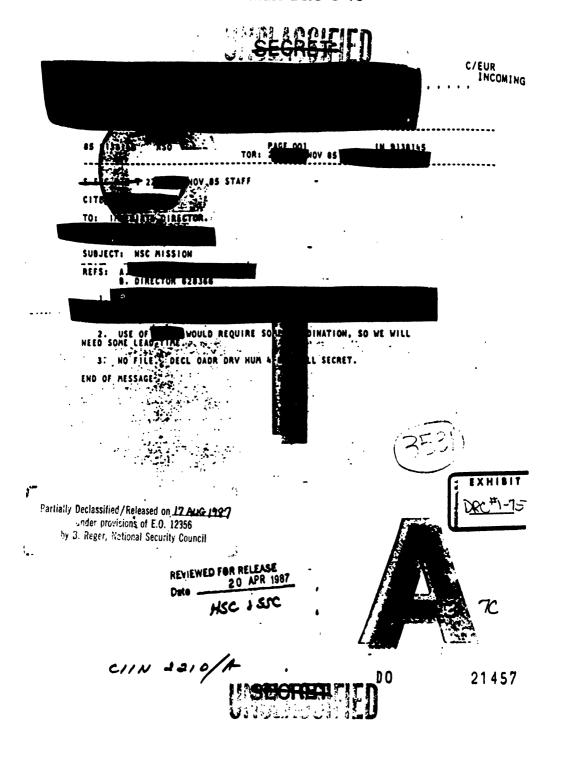
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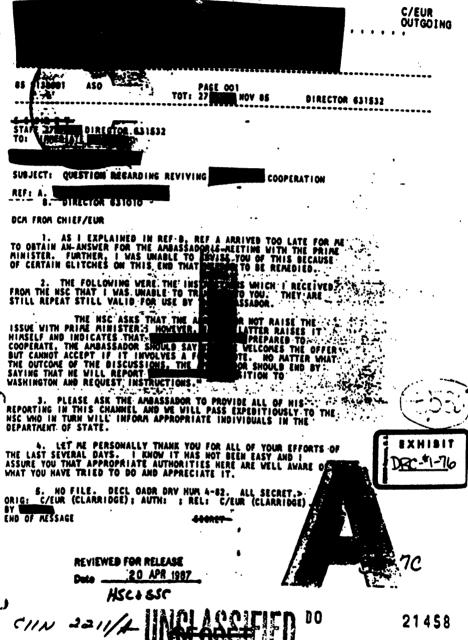






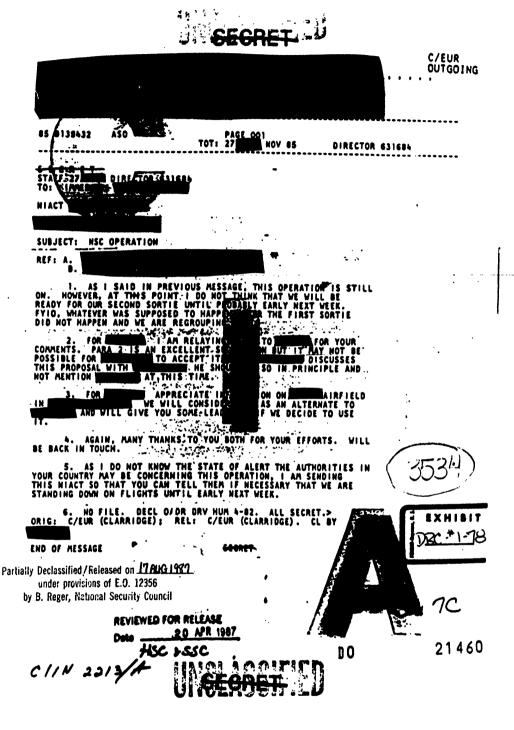






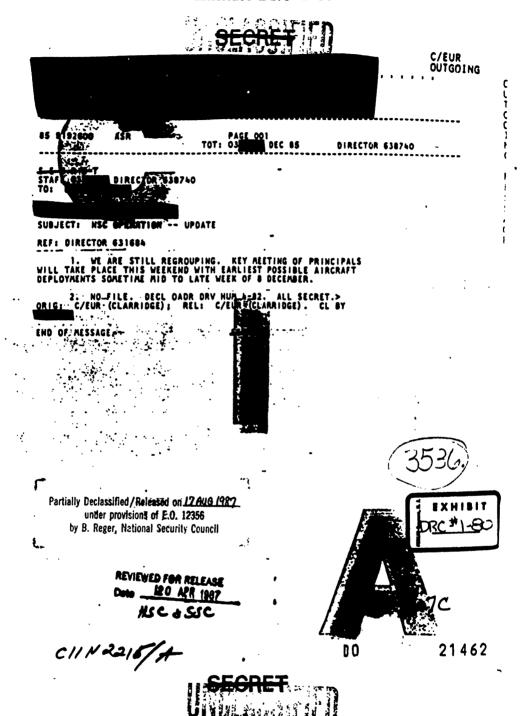
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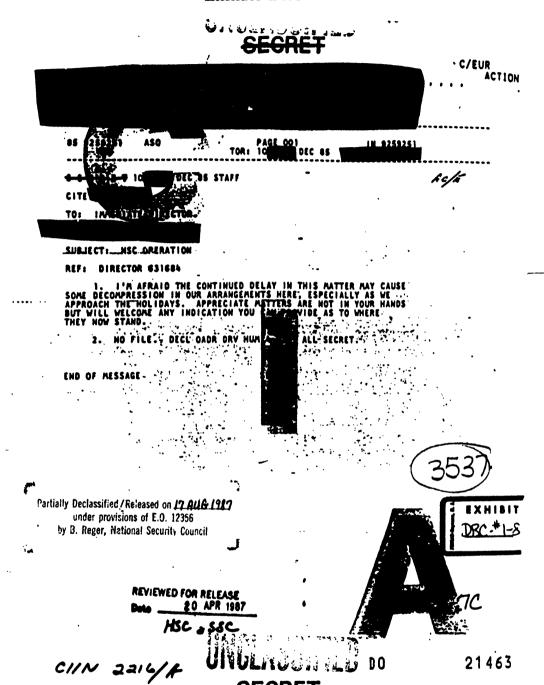
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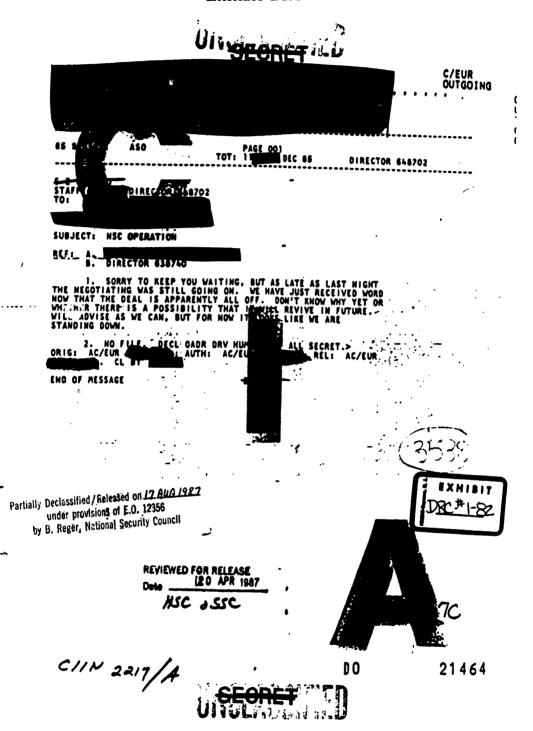


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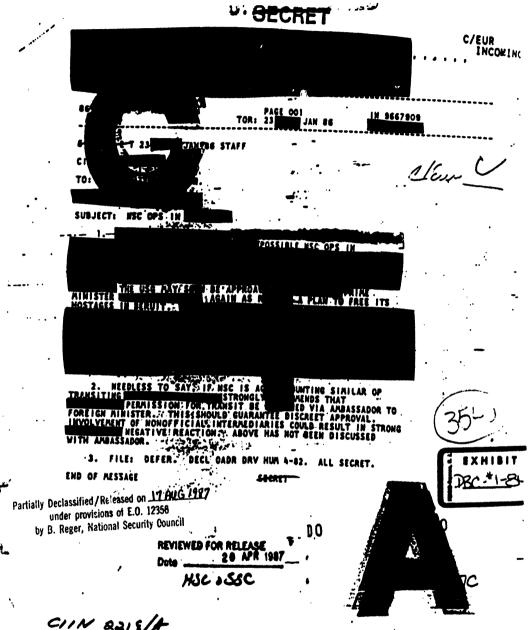




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ACTION SS-25

E.O. 12356: DECL: 0408 TAGS: PREL, IR. 12 SUBJECT: ALLEGED ISRAEL! TRANSSHIPMENT OF ARMS TO 1840

1. SECRET - ENTIRE TEXT.

DURING DISCUSSION WITH A/DCM HOVERBER 21 MFA BOALSED ISSUE OF SAID THAT WA SECRETARY MCETTED A CALL MOVEMBER 20 THANKAGE STATED THAT HE HOPED FOREIGN MINESTRY MIZATION WOULD BE GOVEN FOR TWO AIRCRAFT TO TRANSIT THE THEY WOULD BE CARRYING ARMS PROVIDED BY ISRAEL FOR IRAM. SEEMING SAID THAT BOFFICIAL CAPPAGENTLY ACTING AS BROKER FOR THE S DEAL) REFERMED TO AM "AMERICAN GENERAL" INVOLVED IN THE U.S. THE THING STANDS OF THE USE OF T

3. A/DCM REPLIED THAT THE PRIENTIAL SHIPMENT WAS CERTAINLY NEWS. MER WERE WE AMARE OF ANY AMERICAN SECRET

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COMMECTION. A/DCH RESTERATED STRONG U.S. OPPOSITION TO ARMS SALES TO TRAM AND RECALLED THE MANY DIS-CUSSIONS WITH LAST SPRING. STATED THAT THE POSITION HAD SEEN CLEAR AS MELL - LIMITED SALES OF

AMERICA TION FROM WOULD DENY GINER TIENS

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by B. Reger, National Security Council

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THE CASE IN OURSTION, SAID THAT NO OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR ANTHORIZATION HAD BEEN MADE TO THE MEA IF THERE IS A REQUEST IT WILL BE REJECTED. ALTHOUGH ACCORDINGED THAT SOME TRANSSHIPMENTS MAY TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT FOREIGN BINISTRY MODULEDGE, ITS AUTHORIZATION IS NECESSARY FOR LEGAL TRANSSHIPMENT. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE IT WILL NOT BE CIVEN, AND IN

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Secord, and the Charge continue to seek clearance for A/C from Israel which can land and proceed. Despite the difficulties of the nast 14 hours, all continue to believe that if RCM can get thru to that this can be done.

We continue to explore three options:

- -- Cherter a new A/C to pick up the cargo in Tel Aviv (TA) and deliver it to the companion of the companion of the companion of the flight to Tabriz (T).
- -- Fly the 3 chartered A/C direct to TA, p/u the cargo, fly to content for T from
- -- Fly the three chartered A/C directly to TA, load cargo, proceed directly to T w/o filing until airborne and in FIR.

All continue to believe (including Kimche) that option one is only realistic solution. Other options compromise origins and risk eventual uncovering of many operational details. Kimche urges that solution be found to matter this weekend to protect hostages and those who will deliver them.

UPDATE AS OF 1810:

RCM contacted at 1730. The has agreed to have A/C fm TA land at Dewey has arranged for a proprietary to work for Second (Copp). Copp will charter two 707s in the name of LAKE Resources (our Swiss Co.) and have them p/u the cargo and defiver it to the transport of the transport of the three Israeli chartered DC-8/35s for the flight to T. Though I am sure Copp suspects, he does not know that the 707s belong to a proprietary. Clarridge deserves a medal - - so does Copp.

kinche (DK) has been told how screwed up his people are in planning something like this on such short notice. Not only was the 747 they planned to use a national airlines a/c, but they only had it chartered for 14hrs. We have now taken charge of that phase of the operation and are making direct contact to ansure flight clearance for the three DC-8s chartered by DK's boys. If all goes as we now hope, the cargo will be in by noon (local) and enroute to T shortly after dark. That means we can expect handovers (hopefully)

UPDATE AS OF 1900: Unbelievable as it may same, I have just talked to Schwimmer, in TA who advises that they have released their DC-8s in spite of my call to DK instructing that they be put on Hold until we could iron out the

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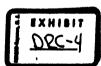
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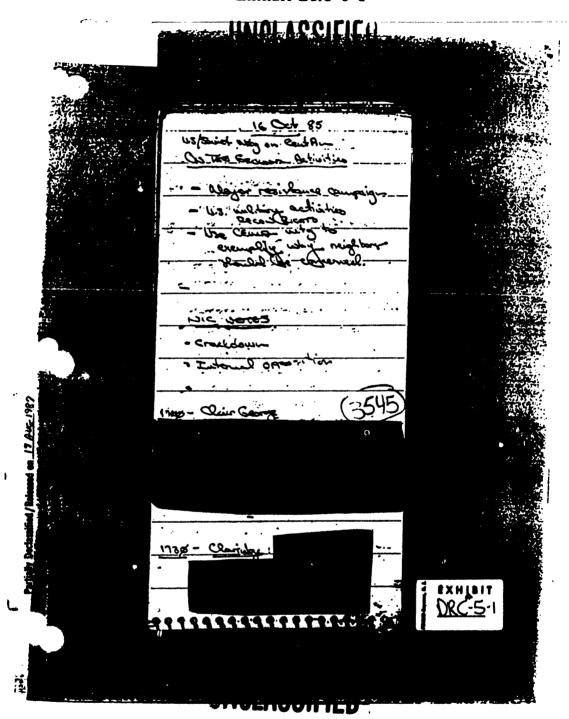
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by B. Reger, National Security County

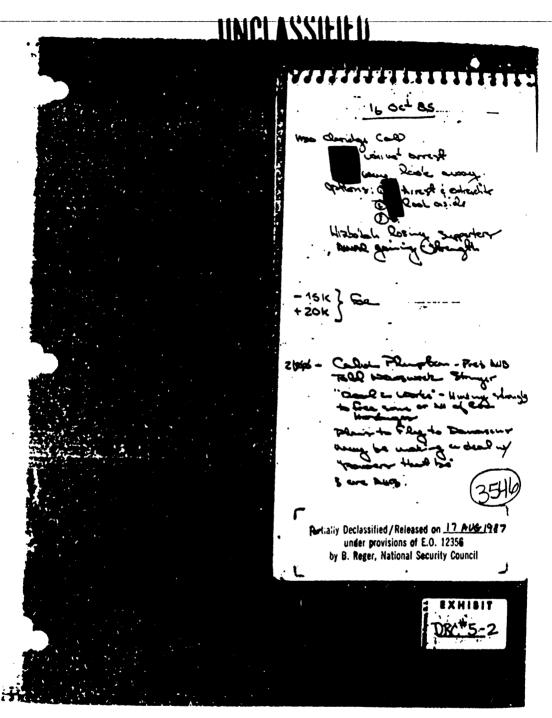
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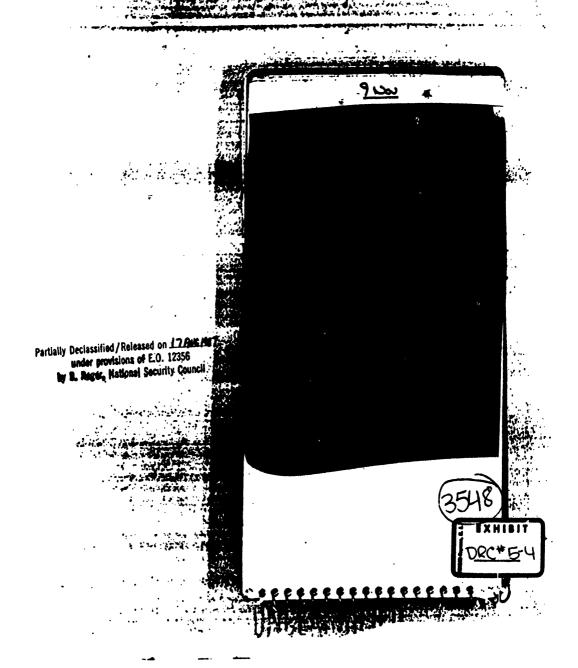


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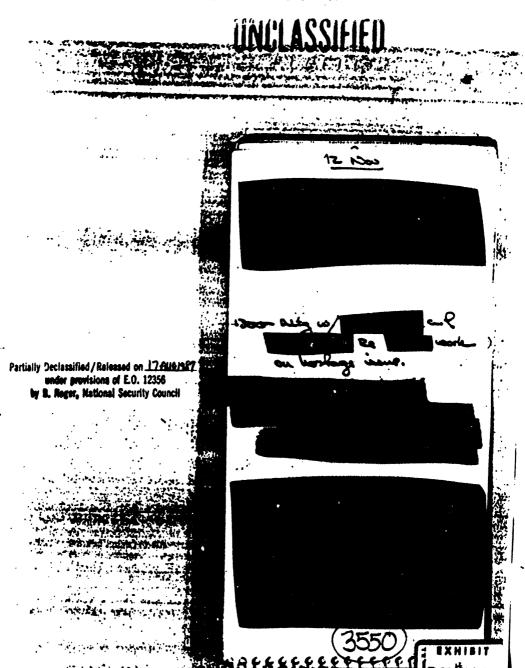






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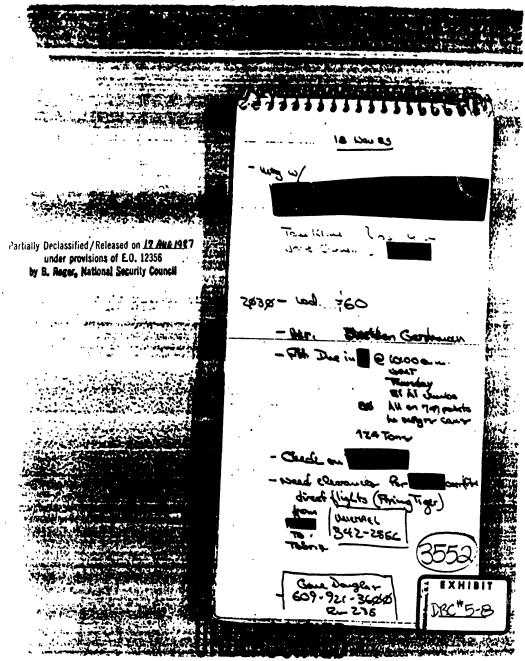
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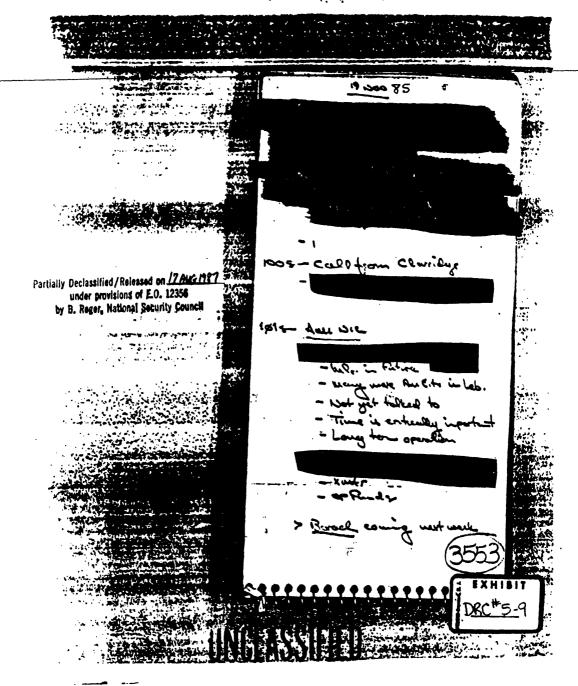
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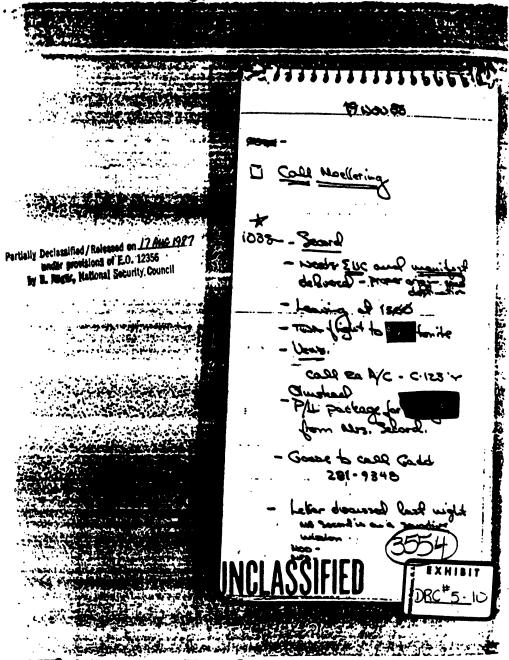
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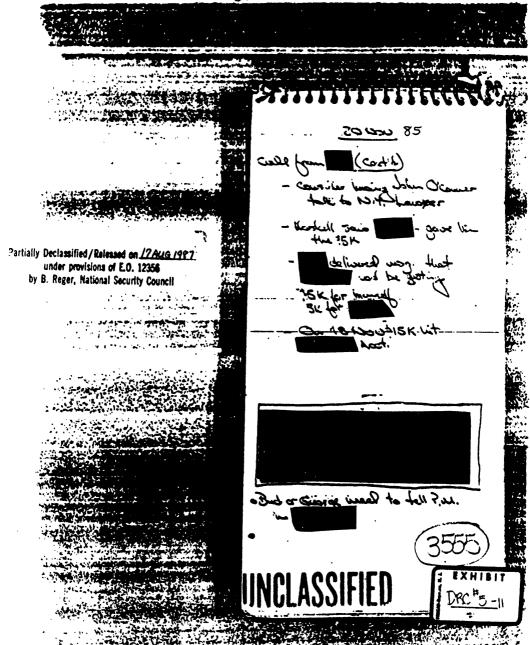
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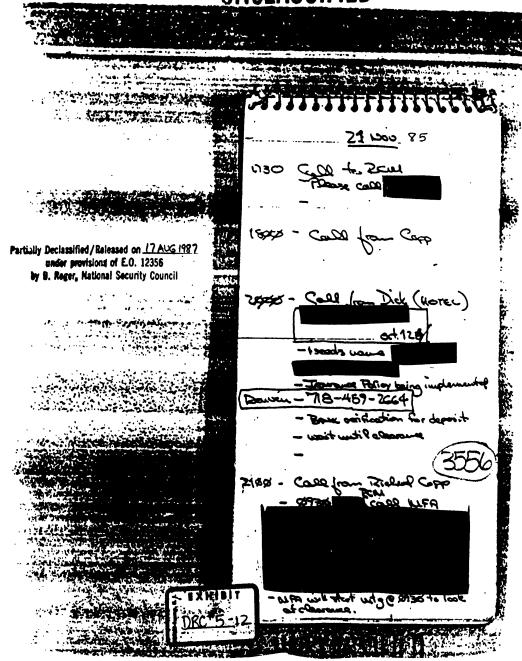


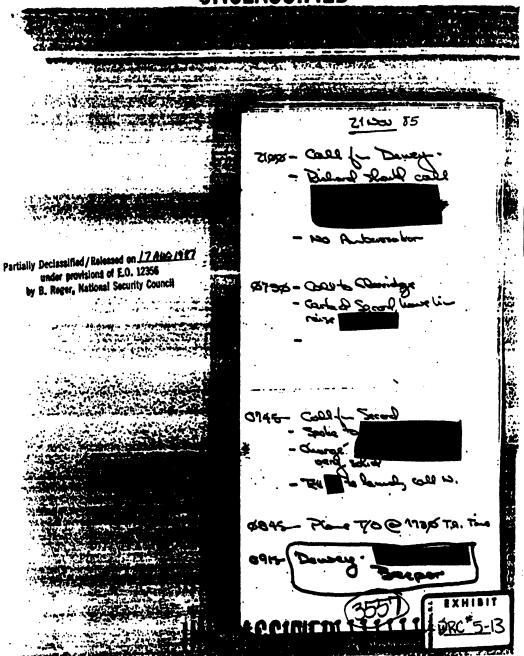
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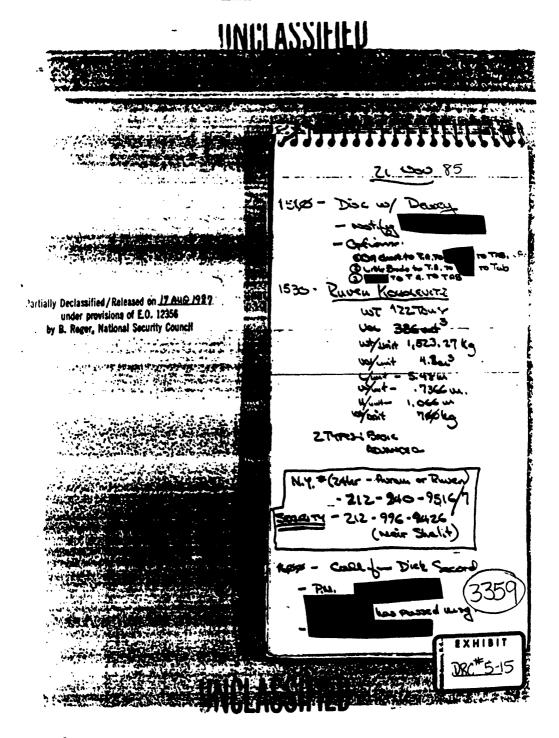
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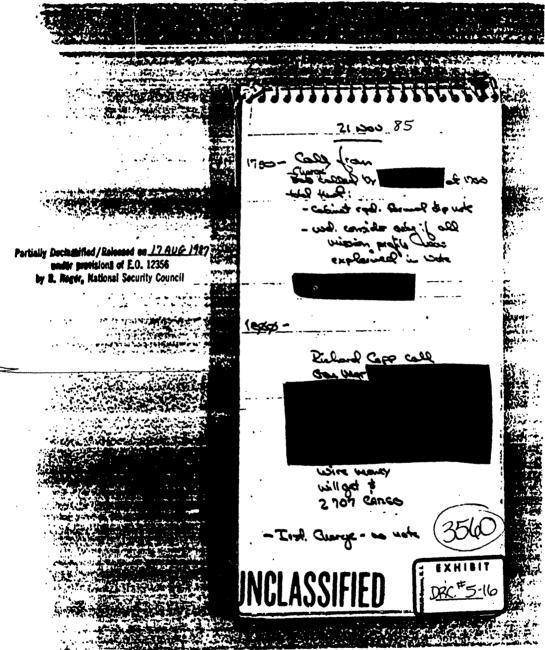
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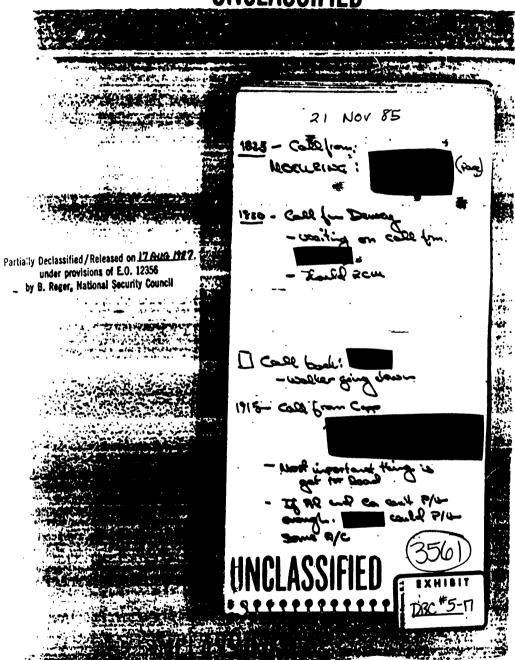
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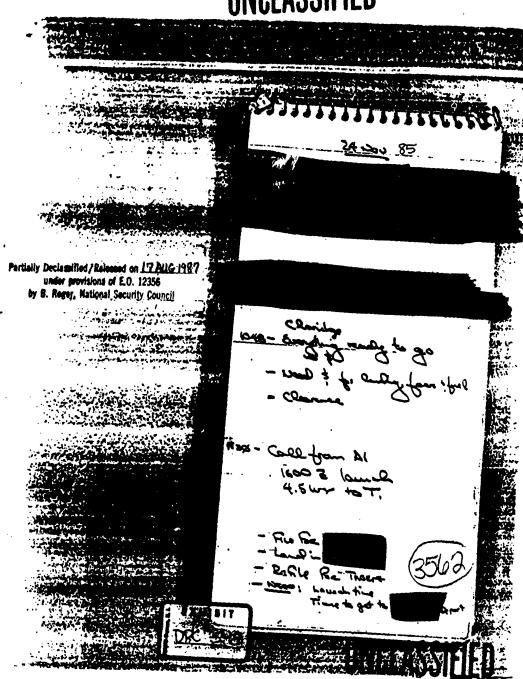
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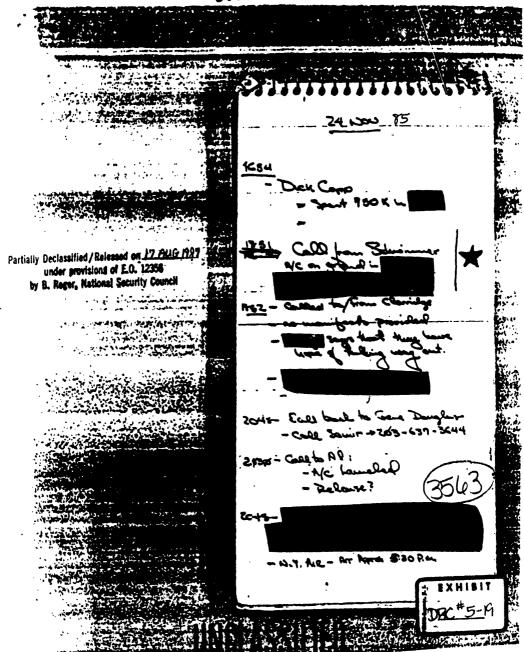
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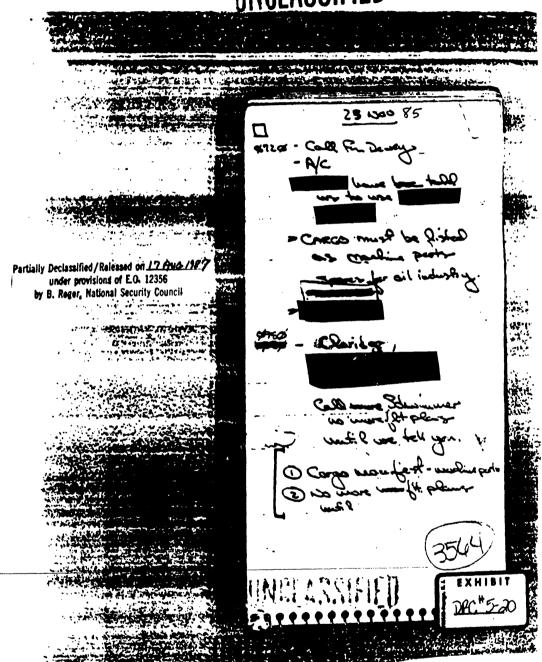


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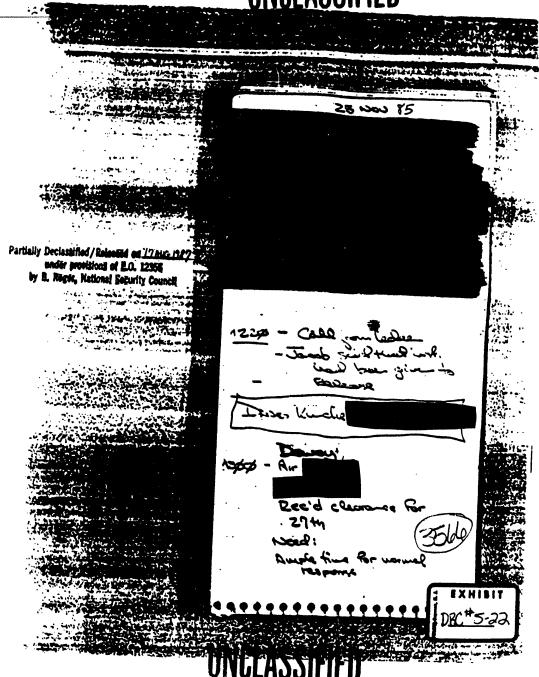


Exhibit DRC-5-23

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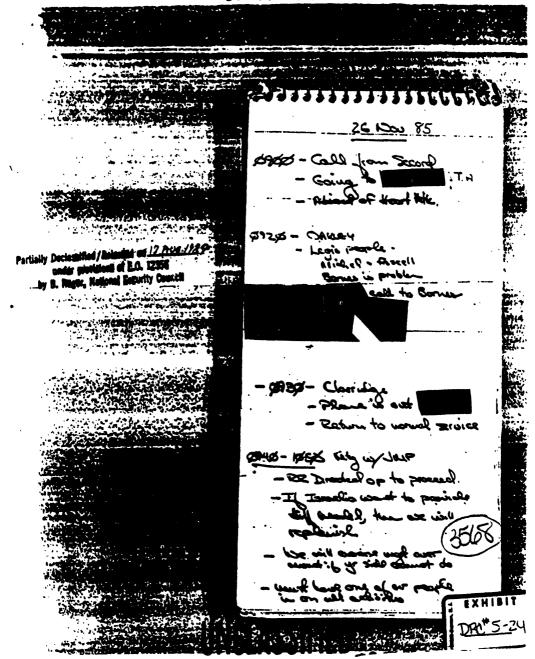


EXHIBIT DRC-6-A

NORTH MEARING
TESTIMONY

MARE: IP18888PH

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766 country, yes.

767 Hr. WIELDS. And the other thing that you did was to

768 involve officials at the CIA.

769 Hr. NORTH. I think we did use communications support from

.770 CIA, that's correct.

771 Hr. WIELDS. Well, you, in fact, contacted Mr. Clarridge,

772 didn't you?

773 Hr. NORTH. Yes, I did.

774 Mr. MIELDS. And, in fact, you went out to the CIA and

775 spent virtually all day Saturday there?

776 Mr. WORTH. What was that date?

MARE: IR18888PH

PAGE 30

777 DCHN GLASSNAP

778

779 Hr. WYELDS. I believe it is the 23rd. You might want to

786 check Exhibit 46.

781 Mr. NORTH. That is correct.

782 Mr. NIELDS. You spent most of the day on the 23rd at the

783 CIA.

784 Hr. WORTP. Yes.

785 Hr. HIELDS. And that was with Hr. Clarridge?

786 Hr. MORTY. I am sure that it was with Mr. Clarridge,

787 perhaps others, but he certainly did clear se in because his

788 signature is right there.

789 Mr. MIELDS. And indeed you returned to the CIA the

798 following day?

791 Mr. MCBTH. On Sunday? I will take your word for it. I

792 did.

793 Mr. MIELDS. And you are now looking at the second page of

794 Exhibit 46, which I take it is another sign-in sheet at the

795 CIA for Surday.

796 Mr. NORTH. That is correct.

797 Hr. MIELDS. And Hr. Clarridge and you were in touch with

798 the U.S. Embassy in the European country?

799 Hr. MCRTH. I don't recall specifically talking to the

ses embassy, no. I know that there were discussions that were

881 held, and I know that there was message traffic exchanged,

MANE: IR18888PH

PAGE 37

se2 that is correct.

es3 Hr. WIELDS.' Cable traffic?

sea Mr. MORTH. Yes.

805 Hr. NIEIDS. And the purpose of cable traffic was to try

886 to obtain from the officials in the European country the

887 right to land a plane carrying the missiles.

898 Mr. MCRTH. That is correct.

889 Hr. NIELDS. And they were then going to be taken off that

aim plane and loaded onto other planes to be transported on to

811 Iran?

812 Mr. NOBTH. Yes.

813 Mr. MIELDS. And at some point through Mr. McFarlane you

814 heard that the foreign country was going to permit the plane

e15 to land.

816 Mr. MCRIH. As I recall, that was at one point approved.

817 Mr. NIELDS. But there was a problem because there was a

ene condition. Isn't that true? Isn't it true that the foreign

819 country--

828 Mr. WORTH. There was a condition, I don't remember what

821 it was right now.

822 Hr. WIELDS. Isn't it true that the foreign country wanted

823 us to acknowledge in writing what it was that was landing?

824 Mr. WORTH. That is right.

825 Mr. NIELDS. The actual material, the Hawks.

826 Mr. NORTH. Yes.

MAME: IR18888PH

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- 827 Nr. WIELDS. We weren't willing to do that?
- #F. WORTH. Wet at all.
- 829 Mr. WIELDS. Cld you discuss that with Mr. Clarcidge?
- 838 Mr. MORTH. I do not recall exactly what I discussed with
- 831 Hr. Clarridge. I know there was a point in time where he
- 832 certainly did become aware, and it may be through sensitive
- 833 intelligence, because the intelligence showed what was being
- 834 moved, and I did at some point along there confirm to him
- 835 that it was not oil drilling equipment but that it was
- 836 Hawks, as was very obvious to almost everybody out there at
- 837 that point, because they were reading the same sensitive
- 838 intelligence that I was.
- 839 When I say that point, I don't know exactly what point it
- 848 is. But I did at some point confirm to him that that's what .
- 841 was taking place, and that--and it may have been after the
- 842 fact, I am not saying that it was before the fact, and at
- 843 that point Mr. McMahon was very upset with me.
- 844 Mr. MIELDS. Mcw, at what point was Hr. HcHahon very upset
- 845 with you?
- 846 Mr. NORTH. As I recall, it was after the pilots returned
- 847 from their mission or in which he saw a part of the
- 848 sensitive intelligence. And I don't recall the specific
- 849 timing, but it was at that point that we began to work on
- 858 the finding with Mr. Sporkin, I think.
- 851 Mr. WIELDS. Well, the record reflects that the finding

NAME: IR 18866PR

PAGE 39

- 852 was transmitted by Director Casey in a cover memo, dated the
- 853 26th of Mcvember. That is Tuesday.
- 854 Mr. MORTH. Okay. So it would be in that timeframe, I
- 855 would quess.
- 856 Mr. WIELDS. You are talking that day or earlier.
- 857 Hr. NCRTH. Well, yes--as a matter of fact, maybe one of
- ass the things, and I don't recall it specifically, but one of
- 859 the things I may have done on that Sunday would have been to
- 868 work on the finding, although I would guess the finding
- 861 didn't actually begin until later on.
- 862 Mr. NIELDS. The committees' other information would
- 863 indicate that the finding began on a Monday.
- 864 Mr. NORTH. Okay.
- 865 Mr. HIELDS. But I would like to take you back to the
- 866 Friday, Saturday period of time when efforts were being made
- 867 to obtain the landing rights in the European country, and
- 868 you can into a snag hecause we were unwilling to identify
- 869 the material in writing.
- 87# I guess first I would like to ask you: Was it your
- 871 understanding that the material had not been identified
- 872 earlier?
- 873 Hr. NORTH. To whom?
- 874 Mr. MIELDS. To the foreign government officials.
- 875 Fr. NORTH. I am not sure that I ever had a particularly
- 876 clear understanding as to what the foreign officials ever

75-958 127

WARE: TP18888P

PAGE 48

877 did know about that. And I guess at some point General

878 Second may have told me what he told them he knew, because I

879 had briefed him before he left. But I don't know what he or

88f the U.S. Government people on scene actually told the

881 foreign officials.

MAME: IR 18880PH

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882 RPTS DINKEL

883 DCMN DANIELS

884 [3:88 p.m.]

885 Hr. WIELDS. Well, you can't land 128-or let's say 88 Hawk

886 missiles in a jumbo jet, unload it, store it, and then put

£87 it back on 3 small planes at an airport without people there

888 knowing that you are transporting something other than cil

889 drilling equipment, can your

898 Hr. NORTH. It depends upon what they are packed in. What

891 you just hit on is one of the reasons why we were so

892 concerned with this whole operation to begin with.

293 There were major problems operationally in this thing

894 right from the start; and what bothered me most of all, and

895 I think I communicated that fairly clearly to my superiors,

896 is here, fix it, and the thing is already on file and they

897 threw the bag to you and you know what is in the bag. That

198 is a serious problem.

899 Mr. WIELDS. Py question to you is, when you suggested to

988 Mr. McFarlane that he obtain approval from the foreign

901 government official, are you telling us that it was your

982 understanding that Hr. HcFarlane wasn't going to mention

983 what he was asking approval for?

924 Mr. WORTH. I was going to leave that up to Mr.

965 McFarlane's judgment. He knew what was on that airplane. I

986 knew what was on the airplane. I am asking him to talk to

MARE: IR18866PR

PAGE 42

- 987 the foreign official to get permission for him--to get the
- ses airplane on the ground. I didn't -- I don't think I sade a
- 589 recommendation one way or the other when I communicated with
- Q10 bir.
- 911 Mr. WIELDS. IR any event, Mr. Clarridge, during this
- 912 period of time, is sending cables back and forth to the
- \$13 embassy in the foreign country on this same issue?
- 914 Mr. WCRTH. I take it that he was. I am not sure I ever
- 915 saw any of those cables, but I may have.
- 916 Mr. HIELDS. Well, I don't want to offer them one by one,
- 917 but there are a number of them which have been marked
- 918 exhibits and they are 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and
- 919 69.
- 929 You needn't read them because my question is going to be
- 921 the same. My question is going to be, was Mr. Clarridge
- 922 aware at the time when he was responsible for sending cables
- 923 back and forth on this issue that the thing had run aground
- 924 tecause we were unwilling to identify the cargo in writing?
- 925 Mr. MCRTH. And I cannot answer that question because I
- 926 don't know.
- 927 Rr. WIELDS. Are you saying you don't know or you don't
- 928 recalls
- 929 Mr. MORTH. Well, the way you asked your question was Mr.
- 938 Clarridge aware. And I don't recall when Mr. Clarridge
- 931 became aware. I do recall confirming to him at some point

MANE: IR 1886EFF

PAGE 4:

- 932 that it was not oil drilling equipment, that it was Hawks,
- 933 and it was my understanding that at that point, he talked to
- 934 either the Director of Operations or to the Deputy Director
- 935 who became angry, and I think there may be a contemporaneous
- 936 note in my notebooks to that effect.
- 937 Mr. WIELDS. In other words, you are saying that you told
- 938 Hr. Clarridge what the real cargo was prior to the time the
- 939 Deputy Director got angry and insisted on a finding?
- 948 Hr. HORTH. I am not saying that for sure. I am saying
- \$41 that is the way it may well have happened. I do recall,
- \$42 although I do not recall the time and date, confirming to
- 943 Hr. Clarridge when asked, "The cargo is not oil drilling
- 944 equipment, the cargo is Hawks."
- 945 Okay. Now, I cannot tell you, Mr. Mields, here at this
- 946 point, a good while after the fact, when that point was.
- 947 Hr. MIELDS. But I take it you are saying it was very
- 948 close in time to when the shipment actually was sent and
- 949 your best recollection is that it was prior to the time that
- 950 the Deputy Director hit the roof, so to speak?
- 951 Mr. NORTH. Yes.
- 952 My recollection is that is why he hit the roof.
- 953 Mr. WIELDS. Now, I am going to return to the question of
- 954 what officials knew about this shipment in a moment, but
- 955 before I dc, I want to return to the question of why only 18
- 956 Hawks were sent and there were no further shipments.

EXHIBIT DRC-6-B

NORTH HEARING
TESTIMONY

NAME: IF18860FH

PAGE 55

1213 ther concerning your contacts with DOD on the subject of

1214 Hawkst

1215 Hr. WORTH. I recall reporting to both of them

1216 Voluminously about this whole problem.

1217 Nr. WIFIDS. All right. You are getting--

1216 Hr. NORTH. You probably have the records and I don't.

1219 Mr. HIELDS. You are getting into the next area I want to

1228 take up, which is who in the government was aware of the

1221 Hawk transaction at the time it occurred? I take it you

1222 Were aware?

1223 Mr. NORTH. I was aware.

1224 Hr. HIELDS. Admiral Poindexter was aware?

1225 Yr. MCRTH. Yes, he was.

1226 Mr. MIELDS. Mr. McFarlane was aware?

1227 Mr. MCBTF. That is correct.

1228 Mr. NIELDS. You have already given some testimony about

1229 Dewey Clarridge. I would like to ask you a few more

1238 questions about that. And I would like you to turn to a

1231 page from your spiral notebook-which, again, are Exhibit 69-

1232 A. This cre is dated the 25th of November.

1233 Mr. HCRTH. Dated again, sir?

1234 Fr. HIELDS. It is the 25th of Hovember, but I am actually

1235 going to ask you to take a look at the last entry on the

1236 24th of Movember, first.

1237 Hr. SULLIVAN. We seek to gc from 28 October to 1

MARE: IP18888PF

PAGE 56

1238 December.

1239 Mr. WIELDS. I think there are a number of pages that

1248 are-have the wrong month on them. I suspect that that is

1241 What you are dealing with. I think 28th of October is

1242 actually 28th November. Sc. move backwards.

1243 Rr. SULLIVAN. What is the writing on it?

1244 Mr. WIELDS. on the 24th, it is the last page that has the

1245 24th as the date on it. And at the top, it is "Dick

1246 Copp.'(Do you have that in front of your

1247 Hr. KOBIH. I have a 24 McVember, 1654 Dick Copp.

1248 Mr. HIELDS. In the middle of the page, there is an entry,

1249 1852; do you see that?

1250 Fr. NCRTH I dc.

1251 Mr. HIELDS. I take it that is 6:52 p.m.?

1252 Fr. NCRTH. Right.

1253 Mr. NIELDS. And in your handwriting, it says "called

1254 to/from clarridge".

1255 Hr. NORTF. Yes.

1256 Mr. NIELDS. Dash--I take it this is a conversation with

1257 Clarridge?

1258 Hr. MOBTH. Apparently so, yes. It must have been on the

1259 telephone.

1268 Hr. HIELDS. And it says then, "no manifesto provided."

1261 Fr. WORTH. I think that is probably manifests.

1262 Hr. HIELDS. Excuse me. Hanifests. "George says that

NAME: IP18666PM

PAGE 57

- 1263 they have hope of talking way cut." First of all, do you
- 1264 know what that refers to?
- 1265 Hr. HORIN. If I could resember who George was, that would
- 1266 help. I am not trying to be flippant about that. I don't
- 1267 remember. There is a telephone number written below it for
- 1268 George that is apparently a U.S. number. What I sense is
- 1269 that that is talking about--

BANE: IR 18866FB

PAGE 'SA

1276 DCHW HILTOP

1271

1272 Hr. HIELDS. We won't mention his last name, but I think.

1273 he's a CIA official. And I am going to ask you whether the

1274 conversation doesn't have to do with the plane.

1275 Hr. MCBTH. I certainly sense it has to do with the

1276 sircraft. I would guess that the "'no manifests provided"

1277 is a call from a person. In fact, if the George is in the

1278 Air Branch, that would indicate to me that he had called and

1279 said, you know, this thing is still very screwed up, there's

1286 no manifests; now what are you going to do? And--

1281 wr. NIELDS. So this is information that's coming from Mr.

1282 Clarridge.to you?

1283 Hr. MOPIN. Well, either that or I called -- it says, "If. "

1288 you will note my note, up above, 1852, called to, and then,

1285 from Dewey Clarridge. There may have been a series of phone

1286 calls back and forth, and I don't know which is which.

1287 Mr. WIELDS. Regardless of who is calling whom, the

1288 information is flowing from the CIA to you?

1289 Hr. NORTH. Apparently so, yes.

1298 Mr. MIELDS. And they are saying that they have hope of

1291 talking their way out. I take it these are the people who

1292 are flying the plane carrying the Hawks?

1293 Mr. HORTH. Hy guess is that's correct, yes.

1296 Hr. FIFLDS. And they've got to talk their way out.

MARE: IR10000FW

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1295 Mr. MORTH. Talk their way out of wherever they are stuck,

1296 If that's what's happened.

1297 Hr. WIELDS. They are stuck at a landing point between

1298 Israel and Iran, I take it?

1299 Hr. MORTH. I don't recall the event, but undoubtedly

1388 everything else having gone wrong with this, that went

1381 wrong, too, yes.

1382 Hr. WIELDS. Hy question is, when you had this

1383 conversation with Hr. Clarridge about no manifests and the

1384 people flying a plane are going to have to talk their way

1385 out of it, did Mr. Clarridge know at that time what they

1386 were talking their way out of?

1387 Hr. HORTP. It is my guess what that refers to is they are

1388 going to talk their way out of the airfield. You know, we

1369 don't have a manifest, I am sorry; we are carrying whatever

1316 It was they were saying at the time, and we will be leaving

1311 now, kind of talk their way out of it.

1312 Fr. HIELDS. Hy question is, at that point in time, was

1313 Mr. Clarridge yet aware of the nature of the cargo?

1318 Hr. NCBTH. By the 24th? I do not know.

1315 Hr. HYELDS. All right. furn the page, if you would. It

1316 says, 2°25 Hovember."

1317 Hr. MORTH. Right.

1318 Hr. HIELDS. At the top. "7:28 a.m., call from Dewey."

1319 Do you have that in front of your

MANE: IR1080FPF

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1320 Hr. FCBTH. I do.

1321 Hr. WIELDS. This is a call from Clarridge, I take it?

1322 Mr. WOMTH. Bight.

1323 Hr. HIELDS. And you are taking notes of what he's saying

1324 to your

1325 Mr. MORTH. Tes.

1326 Hr. WIELDS. And are there--just answer this question yes

1327 or no, please--are there words circled?

1328 Wr. MORTH. There are.

1329 Hr. HIELDS. Okey. Don't mention the words that are

1330 circled.

1331 Yr. MCRTH. Understood.

1332 Mr. NIELDS. It says, "aircraft," does it not?

1333 Hr. MORTH. Pight. "Blank have told us to use blank

1334 blank."

1335 Mr. MIELDS. And then it says, "Cargo must be listed as

1336 machine parts, spares for cil industry."

1337 Kr. WORTH. Right.

1338 Fr. NIELDS. That's Hr. Clarridge telling you?

1339 Mr. MCRTM. Again, by I told you that, I had originally

1348 dissembled with the Agency, in my initial contacts with the

1341 Israelis, we agreed that we would call these machine parts

1342 for the oil fields or whatever, that we specifically talked

1343 about when--in my discussions with the Israelis way back on

1344 the 17th or 18th, that was the agreement we had come to. So

in the investigate the e

MARE: IP18868PF

PAGE 61

1345 I--you know, I had told people at the CIA that.

1346 Hr. WIELDS. I understand that.

1347 Hr. NORTH. You are asking me if I by now had told Hr.

1348 Clarridge the truth about what is on that cargo, and I

1349 cannot tell you, counsel, when it was that I apprised him of

1356 it.

1351 Hr. HIPLDS. Gr that he found out from some other source.

1352 Hy question is, why would--if Hr. Clarridge is telling you,

1353 telling you that the cargo must be listed as machine parts,

1354 spares for oil industry, does that indicate that he was then

1355 aware of what the real cargo was?

1356 Hr. HCBTH. Hct necessarily to me. Because what that may

1357 Indicate is that he had wade arrangements with the people in

1358 the circles through his station chiefs for a clearance with

1359 a manifest that reads a certain way. And what he's telling

1360 me is to go back through Copp, General Second, and make 1361 darned sure that the proprietary is instructed accordingly.

1362 I'm not sure what--I'm trying to answer your questions in a

1363 very straightforward manner. . I don't know what question we

1364 are trying to answer here.

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-nar (

TICN BEPGS-TION 4/21/87

TOP-SECRET/CODEMORD

157

schlepping goods from one part of the world to another?

- A I did not know that.
- Q Now let's move to November 23, 1985. You did become aware of November 23, 1985, of an airplane or airline arrangement relating to the hostages; isn't that correct?
 - A I don't think I would phrase it that way.
 - Q I hope you wouldn't. Phrase it better than that.
- A I was called at home and Colonel North wanted to know why I was at home. He wanted me to show materials on this Iranian initiative to Mr. Clarridge, who was Chief of the European Division, and said why don't you go to work. So I did that, and I went to work and I went up and obtained my file and took them down to Mr. Clarridge, who was there in his office, and most Directorate of Operations Chiefs are there on a Saturday morning.

And so it wasn't unusual to find him there. He read them. I said I'd been asked to do this by Colonel North because Colonel North wanted you to understand that this was a very serious initiative under way by the White House.

And Mr. Clarridge leafed through them -- by that time there were quite a number -- and indicated that yes, he believed this was a serious initiative. And he told me that Colonel North had requested some assistance in obtaining a name of a reliable charter airline. He had been trying to do this. I believe also he indicated he was going

TOP-HECKET/CODEWORD

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TOP DECKET/CODEWORD

151

to try to obtain some form of clearance for aircraft to land in a certain country that fell within his divisional responsibilities.

And that country, I believe, was

- Q Let me sort of walk you through this step by step.
 You would have gotten a telephone call from Colonel North on
 the morning of Saturday, November 23.
 - A That's correct.
 - Q Approximately what time?
- A Well, I think he called -- I was going to go to a football game with my family, and he called about \$:30 or 9:00 and said that that was out of the question. I had to come to the office and help him because he wanted to make sure Mr. Clarridge was aware that this was a serious initiative.

And when I arrived at the office I called Colonel North on secure, I believe, and he said it was a serious effort, that he was having some problems, that things had to be accelerated and for me to go down and see Mr. Clarridge, which I did.

And then Mr. Clarridge explained that Colonel North was looking for a reliable charter airline to move some equipment to Iran.

Nr. Clarridge had not been privy, to your knowledge, to prior to this time; is that Ten_carrat/codeword :

/CODEWORD 159

correct?

- A To the best of my knowledge he'd never seen them and indicated so when I showed them to him. It came as a surprise to him that these services existed.
- Q I'm having a little trouble following why it was that you would have shown to Clarridge to help establish North's bone fides. I'm having trouble with that.
- A Not North's bona fides but the bona fides of the initiative, which was clearly directed at getting hostages out of Lebanon, also clearly directed at Iran.
- Q Do you recall any discussion with Mr. Clarridge or anyone else or Mr. Clarridge talking either directly or indirectly to Mr. McMahon about whether or not he ought to proceed with this matter?
 - A I don't recall that at all.
- Q Do you recall talking to Mr. Juchniewics about that aspect of things on the morning of the 23rd?
 - A No. I did not talk to Mr. Juchniewicz.
- Q With regard to Mr. Clarridge, he was there at the time you arrived, right?
- A He was in his office when I came down from the seventh floor to the fifth floor, where he is located.
 - Q And that would have been approximately --
 - A Fourth floor.
 - Q That would have been approximately what time of

TOP-OSCRET/CODEWORD

SECRET/CODEWORD

160

day?

- I imagine I arrived there about 9:30, 10:00.
- So you arrived at his office about 9:30, 10:00?
- I arrived probably in my office about 9:30. I picked up my mail and I think I had another I looked at that and I included that in the
- Then, when you walked down to see Mr. Clarridge, Mr. Clarridge indicated to you that he'd been there for some time, had he?
 - He didn't say how long he'd been there.
 - Did you know how long he'd been there?

reading material for Mr. Clarridge.

- Do you know today how long he'd been there?
- In terms of what Mr. Clarridge told you he was about, what did he tell you?
- He stated that he was working on obtaining a charter, trying to help Colonel North obtain a charter . airline, and that Colonel North-needed the name of a reliable airline that could be passed to an intermediary working this Mr. Clarridge didn't seem to know much about the initiative except that he said Colonel Morth was e route to his office and that he would have more details.

Meanwhile, I believe he was working on the proble : TOP STORE / CODEWORD

TOP-SUCCEST/CODEWORD

161

and the idea had occurred that they might use the CIA proprietary, might just use this as a normal charter activity.

- Q That idea was abroad as of the time that you met with Clarridge that morning?
- $\ensuremath{\mathtt{A}}$. I would say it certainly had occurred to Mr. Clarridge.
- Q Was there anyone else present when you had this conversation with Mr. Clarridge?
- A I don't think so. Later in the day Colonel Worth arrived and arrived.
 - Now you were present when Colonel North arrived?
- A I think I went back to my office and then later I returned and Colonel North had arrived.
- Q At what point was a representation made to you about the cargo to be carried by this aircraft, whosever aircraft it might be?
- A I can't recall specifically, but Colonel North

 stated emphatically that this was oil-drilling equipment that
 was being sent into Iran. It was related to the meetings
 occurring in Geneva. I believe in my presence and Mr.
 Clarridge he made a call to the Deputy National Security
 Advisor, at the time Admiral Poindexter, to get Admiral
 Poindexter's endorsement to proceed with this activity.

TOP SECRET/CODEMORD

TOP SECRET/CODEWORD

162

- Q' I'm sorry -- Admiral Poindexter or Mr. McFarlane?
- A Well, I think he may have called both. He made a number of telephone calls while I was there.
- Q Was Colonel North actually present and were you present when Colonel North actually said that this was oil-drilling equipment?
 - A Yes, I heard him say that.
 - Q You heard him say that?
- λ Yes. I've testified to that and I'll testify again. I heard him say it.
- Q Now during this period of time, up to the time you had the meeting with Colonel North, were you aware of or were you shown any of the cable traffic that was being generated to and from Nr. Clarridge?
 - A To and from Mr. Clarridge?
 - Q Um-hum.
- A I knew that cables were going out the second also to, I believe because I think Mr.

 Clarridge felt if an agency proprietary was used it would

 have to have some clearances. I don't recall the specific.

 I don't think I read any of the traffic specifically at the time.

There were discussions between Mr. Clarridge and over the availability of air crews, the whole issue of appropriate cover for this airline so it would look

SOF SECRET/CODEWORD

16)

like a normal charter activity. All that was required was for, I believe, the manager of the airline, the CIA proprietary, to be put in contact with a Mr. Copp With regard to time differences translates to roughly in the United States? Does that sound about right? Sounds about right. So a conversation that took place in about on the 23rd of November would translate to on the 23rd in the United States; isn't that about right? No, that's wrong. If it were in It would be about here, about difference between and the United States. All right. Did it come to your attention that there was a cable from of a conversation that he had on the evening of the 23rd with a man he knew as Copp, who we now know is General Secord? No, I did not know of that at all.

Q Do you know of it today, that there were such cables?

A I knew there were cables, but I don't know where directly discussed the matter with Hr.

200 SECRET/CODEWORD

DEPOSITION!
TESTIMOUT

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VIEMBAON OFFE-

TESTIMONY WEST

Exhibit DRC- SECRET/CODEMORD

92

- Q Did you express your concerns to anybody?
- A I did with Casey, and also with was very concerned about it, but nothing, you know, went beyond that.
 - Q You ve described this both as an Israeliinitiative and an NSC initiative. Which do you think it was and how do you put those two together?
- A I think the arms for hostages with Iran was an Israeli initiative. When I speak of initiatives I think of the NSC beginning to play an active role in trying to release the hostages through foreign mechanisms, which NSC would normally do through either State or CIA, and it was the NSC itself doing it.
- Q As far as you knew at the time, when did the NSC start this initiative?
 - A Oh, I can't recall, but I would say it has to be, you know, shortly after the hostages were taken and we couldn't do much about it.
- Q I mean this particular initiative. I don't mean when did they start trying to find out where the hostages were and exploring alternatives to gain their release. I'm saying when did the NSC first start this initiative involving the shipment of arms from Israel to Iran to gain the release of the hostages.
 - A Well, if I look at the events of November '85,

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by B. Reger, National Security Council

TOP SECRET/CODEWORD



ior-cucret/codeword

1	I'd say it would have to be November 23, 1985, or 22nd, 1
2	guess it was, when the shipment went.
3	Q So up until that point you saw the NSC's role
4	as merely monitoring an ongoing Israeli effort?
5	A Yes. And the tie was, you know, Israelis to
6	the NSC and NSC people with these contacts. There was no
7	station or ambassador involvement that I was aware of.
	MR. LEON: Were you familiar, Mr. McMahon,
9	with the proposal that Bud McFarlane in the summer of '85
.0	had circulated to the Directors of Central Intelligence,
1	Defense and State about an Iran initiative, opening up an
2	initiative with Iran? Does that ring any bells to you?
3	THE WITNESS: No, it doesn't.
4	MR. LEON: Do you remember hearing anything
5	from the Director about how he was in favor of
6	McFarlane's proposal of opening up new doors with Iran
7	and yet Weinberger and Shultz were not in favor of it?
8	THE WITNESS: That probably centers around a
9 .	paper that was prepared by our National Intelligence
0	Officer, Graham Fuller, that expressed his growing
1	concern that the Iran situation with the U.S. had
2.	deteriorated to nothing and that as events transpired in

TOP SECRETY CODEWORD

to try and bring Iran back into the western orbit.

than we are, and therefore initiatives ought to be taken

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93

TOD SECRET/CODEWORD

, .	He felt that while the U.S. had no cards to
	maybe we could encourage the western Europeans
to play a	greater role with Iran in order to keep them
away from	the Soviets.
	mr

BY MR. BARBADORO: (Resuming)

Q I want to turn to that weekend in November now and I'll try to get through a couple of things relatively quickly. Your memorandum of December 7, 1985, summarizes your knowledge of what was going on that weekend, and it says that you first learned of it on Saturday, November 23, when Ed Juchniewicz asked you if you were aware of the efforts transpiring to get the hostages out, and your answer was that you weren't aware of the specifics.

Is that the way you recall learning of what was going on that weekend?

A Now what he said wasn't the hostages. The way he phrased it, he said do you know what these guys are up to. And he handed me a cable which was addressed to the charge and I think it was from the Deputy National Security Advisor. At any rate, it was the National Security Advisor or Deputy National Security Advisor, and it was kind of a cable that was bemoaning the fact that was kind of a cable that was bemoaning the fact that was about the extent of it.

TOR SECRET/CODEWORD

COR-COORDT/CODEWORD

And I read it. It was one of those cables that had no distribution other than the division and the DDO. I gave it back to Ed, and I said, look, it's okay to send cables. We do that all the time for Secretary of State or Defense or what have you, use our channels because they are more secure. But I said make sure we don't get involved, and that was Saturday morning.

And then Monday morning I came in and he said hey, do you know what those guys did? And I said what guys, and he said Secord. Now that's the name I heard. And I said what was that. And he said they used our proprietary to send over some oil supplies, and I said goddam it, I told you not to get involved.

And he said, we're not involved. They came to us and we said no. And they asked if we knew the name of a secure airline and we gave them the name of our proprietary. I said, for Christ's sake, we can't do that without a Finding. So then I went back to my office and I punched a button and I said you get those guys together with Sporkin.

And then I think that was the 7:30 time frame -- 7:15, 7:30 time frame. Then I went back down about 9:00 and I went in. Clair George's door was closed, and I went into his office and he had a bunch of people in there, and Clair said I'm just finding out what's going



on, because he was away for the weekend.

paramilitary and air ope programs, and I said to him make sure you guys get over to Sporkin and we get a Finding.

And then during the day I called Sporkin several times and I told him that I wanted a Finding and I wanted it retroactive to cover that flight.

And he came over, I think it was that night -it may have been the next morning, but I think it was
that night -- which would have been Monday, and this was
after the air ops guys had briefed him, and he said well,
we need a Finding, but I'm not so sure that we need a
Finding for use of the proprietary. I said, what do you
need the Finding for, and he said, well, they used our
people overseas to contact government officials and they
exerted influence on government officials.

I said okay, write the Finding. And I said be sure and make it retroactive, and he said I think I'll talk to the White House counsel and to Justice, and I said great. And he left and then, you know, the next day or so -- I can't tell you when -- I was standing at my table with several people around me and he came in and said here's this Finding.

It was a two-paragraph, very short Finding, and in that Finding it said, you know, we are directing TOP-SECRET/CODEWORD



-	and the second s
2	it said, including munitions or something like that, and
3	then the last paragraph was a kind of a quit claim that
,4	said, and this goes for any previous act any government
5	official may have undertaken.
6 .	And I said perfect. I said get it to Casey
7	and I said, get it down there.
8	Q Let me stop you there and ask you some
9	questions about November 25. You were told on the 25th
10	that Secord was involved?
11 -	A Yes.
12	Q Who told you that?
13	A Ed Juchniewicz.
14	Q . And that was the first indication you had tha
15	Secord was in some way involved in this operation; right
16	A Right.
17	Q What did he tell you Secord's role in the
18	thing was?
19	A He didn't, and in fact it now seems rather
20	incomplete, but I didn't even go into what was in the
21	shipment. I accepted the fact it was oil equipment
53	because, you know, the Iraqis had been pounding the hell
23	out of Kharg Island.
24	Q Who told you it was oil-drilling equipment?
25	A Ed Juchniewicz.

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COP-SECRET/CODEWORD

1	Q When?
2	A On that
3	Q On the Monday?
4	A On the Monday.
5	Q Did you connect this shipment in your mind
6	with the ongoing Israeli initiative that you had read
7	about
	A Yeah, but I didn't connect it in an arms
•	sense, just that the Israelis were doing things with the
LO	Iranians, because it was my understanding that that
11	shipment was going to Israel, not to Iran.
L2	Q Did you think that it was ultimately bound for
13	Iran?
.4	A Yeah. I figured they'd transship it on their
.5	own planes into Iran.
.6	Q But, in any event, on the 25th you didn't
7	question Juchievics' assertion that it was oil-drilling
•	equipment?
9	A My focus, and you might say it's strange, my
0	focus was that we had done something wrong, that we
1	weren't authorized to do, and I didn't care what was on
2	that airplane. We had used our airplane to do something
3	that we didn't have a Finding to do. And that's why I
}	insisted on a Finding.
3	Q In your view it was the fact that the airplan

TOD_SECRET/CODEWORD

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.5	required a Finding regardless of the nature of the cargo?
3	A No. That was used our airplane to go anyplace
4	at the request of someone else.
5	Q Well, the proprietary flew flights, though,
6	for private individuals all the time, didn't it?
7	A But not arranged by CIA headquarters. They do
8	them directly. They are out scarfing up their own
9	business, but when we direct them to do something, when
10	CIA headquarters gets involved, then we have to have an
11	authorization to do that.
12	Q So as far as you were concerned any use of a .
13	CIA proprietary airline at the direction of the CIA would
14	have to be done pursuant to a Finding?
15	A Definitely, unless it's out on an intel
16	collection mission, put cameras in it or something like
17	that.
18	Q When you learned that the proprietary had been
19	used, your reaction was to immediately contact
20	Mr. Sporkin and tell him that you needed a Finding
21	prepared?
22	A Right.
23	Q You also told him in that first conversation
24	that it needed to apply retroactively?
25	A Right.
	TOD CHORETY CODEWORD



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2	gone on that weekend for him?
3	A Nope. I just said I think our guys screwed up
4	and you ought to take a look at it.
5	Q Did you think that the CIA was going to have
6	to be involved on a continuing basis in this initiative,
7	or did you think this was just a one-time occasion where
	over the weekend of the 23rd of November, one time, a
9	proprietary plane was used?
10	A I didn't focus on that. All I knew is that we
11	needed a Finding to cover that event. If the MSC in its
12	dealings needed continued support, then we'd need a
13	Finding to provide that.
14	Q And the only thing that you told Mr. Sporkin
15	wan that it had to apply retroactively? You didn't give
16	him any other idea as to what he should put in that
17	Finding?
18	A No.
19	MR. LEON: Paul, could I ask one question?
20	In your capacity as the Deputy DCI would you
21	deal with Sporkin one-on-one on a regular basis or just
22	once in a while?
23	THE WITNESS: No. I think we had, you know, a
24	frequent dialogue.
25	MR. LEON: Would he also have that kind of a
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•	idiatiousuph aith the Director Himself.
2	THE WITNESS: Oh, by all means, yes.
3	MR. LEON: They had been working together for
4	years?
5	THE WITNESS: Yee. Sporkin was in the Agency
6	because of the Director.
7	BY MR. BARBADORO: (Resuming)
	, Q In this meeting with Juchniewicz on the 25th
9	what were you told about the MSC's involvement in the
10	initiative?
11	A He didn't mention MSC. He referred to "those
12	guys", which I assumed to be the NSC.
13	Q Did he mention Colonel North?
14	A No. But when I came back here, I guess in
15	January or February I don't know when it was; I guess
.6	it was for the hearing with the Senate Select Committee
.7	somebody told me that Juchniewicz said it wasn't Secord
.8	he mentioned; it was North. And I said to Ed, I said,
.9	don't you remember, you know, pounding your chest, and he
٥	said no, I didn't use the name Secord. I used North.
1	But, you know, I hadn't had any reason to say
2	Secord unless he told me that. But, you know, it could
3	be. I mean, could he have seen it from a cable from
4	where Secord was stranded and tied it in that way?
5	I don't know.
-	•

TOP OBCARS/CODEWORD

201 - COCKET/ CODEWORD

-	We will speek moon much housely mone a core
2	Clair George to get together all the traffic and make
3	aure that everything that had transpired on this, that we
4	were in tip-top shape, and said stay on top of this.
5	Q . Did you talk to Dewey Clarridge on the 25th at
•	all?
7	A Late at night, late in the evening, let's say
	6:00-7:00, something like that, Devey came in with a
•	cable to go out, and he said the Ambassador's been
10	calling and trying to get shold of Casey and he wanted to
11	know if, you know, he should pursue with
12	to get their approval, and this cable said, you know, the
13	Director is not here, but this was a National Security
14	Council mission or operation and that he is not to pursue
15	it further, and we signed it and sent it out.
16	Q Were you reading the cable traffic that was
17	coming in and out that day on this issue?
18	A No.
19	Q On November 25 at time a cable was
20	sent to headquarters from describing the operation
21	and in the cable notes that
12	the pilot told the ground controllers that he
23	was carrying military equipment. Do you ever remember
14	reading that cable?
15	A No.

TOP SECRES/CODEMORE

103

2	where the pilot had told the ground control
3	that the plane was carrying military equipment?
.4	A No. I'm not so sure that would surprise me,
5	you know. What the plane was carrying was not my focus.
6	Q It didn't matter to you one way or the other?
7	A It didn't matter to me one way or the other.
	Q' When did you first come to doubt that there
- 9	was oil-drilling equipment on the plane?
10	A I don't know. I've been asked that question
11	before and I just can't put a time on it. If I was
12	smart, I would have reacted where I saw the draft Finding
13	that Sporkin had prepared because in there he had used
14	the term "weapons" or "munitions" or something like that,
15	but that just didn't focus on me at the time.
16	Q From the cable traffic it's apparent that
17	planning for this operation continued well into December.
18	Were you aware that planning was ongoing to continue this
19	operation, to do additional flights into December?
20	A No. I just told our guys that they weren't
31 .	going to do anything more until we got a Finding.
22	MR. EGGLESTON: There were two things that
23	were in your memorandum of Becember 7 about Nevember 25
24	that I wanted to ask you about. There's a line and
25	I'll be glad to show it to you there's a line that
	TOP-OBGRASH/CODEMORS



POP-ONCRET/CODEWORD

104

• .	reports on abharement term commenters
· 2	of that day which says: "When General Second visited the
3	Agency he tried to get leads on airlines that might be
4	available to move equipment to the Near East in a secure
5	fashion."
6	Do you recall Juchniewics I mean, this is
7	your memorandum I'm reading from.
	THE WITHESS: No, I don't recall that, and I
9	don't recall Secord coming to the Agency.
10	MR. EGGLESTON: That's why I was curious. Do
11	you recall today that Juchniewick had told you that he
12	had actually come to the Agency to look for
13	THE WITHESS: No.
14	HR. EGGLESTON: The other thing I wanted to
15	ask you about was did you have any conversation with
.6	Dewey Clarridge about what might have been on the
.7	aircraft or was he telling you about the efforts?
. 8	THE WITNESS: No. The only contact I had with
.9	Dewey on this was when he came in that Monday night with
:0	the cable going out to
1 .	MR. EGGLESTON: And it's clear to you that you
2	didn't have any knowledge about the use or proposed use
3	of the proprietary until November 25?
4	THE WITNESS: You bet your life. I did not
5	know until after the fact.

EXHIBIT DRC-9

· · SEARET ..

EXHIBIT -- CPUA

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*** Reply to note of 88/31/85 13:26

NOV 29 Mes: 9908

NOTE FROM: OLIVER NORTH

To: NSJMP -- CPUA

Subject: PRIVATE BLANK CHECK

Copy & Pacarat Current Status of Operation Recovery: Following summary is discussions in Geneva among Kinche, Copp. Serbanifahr and Subject: Current Status of which were concluded this weekend, subsequent discussions

uith Mendy Meren here in Washington which are continuing, and calls blum Copp and Kinche's asset (Minrodi) who is "beby sitting" the Iranians in Paris (where they are are receiving guidance from Tehran).

of 18 Hout Assiles went oury The attempted transfer because the Iranians were in fact seeking a weapons system that usuld be capable of stopping Soviet recommissance flights along the Iranian/Soviet border and on the Iranian/Iraqi border. Gorba rptd that these flights occur regularly and as deep as 40ms inside Transan airspace. Because Schulmer and Ledeen were unfamiliar with the operational parameters of the HAMK, they agreed to ship 120 weapons that were totally inadequate to meet the routs established by the Iranians. This delivery has created an atmosphere of extraordinary distrust on the part of the Iranians; in Kinche's view, because the credibility of the Gorba bission has probably been seriously called into question.

Despite this perception (Gorbe seid numerous times that this whole thing uss a "chesting game" on the part of the Israelis , Copp & Kinche have been able to proceed with a renewed dialogue which still premises hope for achieving our three objectives:

-- support for a pragmatic - army oriented faction which could take over in a change of government

return of the five AMCIT hostages

-- no more terrorism directed egainst U.S. persennel or interests.

From these engaing discussions, which in two cases included Irenian military officers, Copp and Kinche conclude that the military situation in Iren is desperate. The Irenian descriptions of the state of their equipment, lack of competent management, inability to use such of the remaining U.S. meterial portends the real possibility of a military colleges (at least by the Army) in the near to mid-term. Thus, there is considerable pressure on the interlocutors in Europe to produce - quickly.

Given the relatively low level of competence on the part of the Iranians in Europe, and the fact that any supplies delivered util undoubtedly have to be examined by an Army or Air Force efficer, it is very doubtful that errangement can be worked out with the parties in "single transaction" Tehren, no matter what is agreed to in Europe. In short, they have been "scanned" so many times in the past that the attitude of distrust is very high on their part. At the same time, in all discussions (including today's ne calls) they are desperate to conclude some kind of arrangement in the

next 10 days and have even asked that the neeting scheduled for Saturday in anden be advanced. Based on what we can conclude the believe that they are very concerned that the bestages (the only released by the Syriane, Druze, Phalange or Anal in the near future. Waste centacts with the capture seems to correspond this assessment. In short, Verte's

time is very short for all parties concerned.

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Finally, there is the matter of the longer term strategy for what we should be attempting to accomplish viz a viz the Iran-Iran war and N a more reasonable government in Iran. From my personal discussions 9909 with Kinche and Meron it is apparent the the Israelis want: the war to continue at a stalemate, a more moderate Iranian government in the end and uill somehow find a way to continue getting their people (Jews) out of Iran through some kind of barter arrangement. In that the first two of their goals are, it would seem, generally congruent w/ our interests, and their last a fact of life, we should probably be seeing the return of the AMCIT hostages as a subsidiary benefit -- not the primary objective. though it may be a part of the necessary first steps in achieving the broader objectives. While Kimche, Meron, Copp and I all agree that there is a high degree of risk in pursuing the course we have started, we are now so far down the road that stopping what has been started could have even more We all view the next steps as "confidence serious repercussions. building" on the part of both sides. None of us have any illusions about the cast of characters we are dealing with on the other side. They are a printitive, unsophisticated group who are extraordinarily distrustful of the West in general and the Israelis/U.S. in particular. They have not t They have not the slightest idea of what is going on in our government or how our system works. Today for example, Gorba called Copp in absolute confusion over the fact that Refeanjant had just received a letter from (of all people) Sen. Helms Since the Iranians are adment that they regarding the American Hostages. not be publicly connected with the seizure, holding or release of the AMCITs, why, Gorba wanted to know, was Helms being brought into this "solution to the puzzle." Gorba reiterated that "Batri ought to have more control over the members of his parliment" than to allow them to confuse an already Dick told him the letter had nothing to do with what difficult problem. are about, but Gorba did not seem convinced that this wasn't some sort of effort to embarass Iran. Given this very unsophisticated view of things on their part and the dis-

Given this very unsophisticated view of things on their part and the distrist that the Iranians obviously feel, we believe that if we stop the current effort at this point and do not at least proceed with a "test" of the current relationship we:

the current relationship we:
-- run the risk of never being able to establish a "foothold" for the
longer term goals in that the people we are dealing with will be
totally discredited at home; and

-- incur the greater likelihood of reprisels against us for "leading them on." These reprisels could take the form of additional hostage seizures, execution of some/all of those now held, or both.

While the threat to carry out sanctions against us has not, to my knowledge, ever arisen (it containly has not since Kinche/Copp/Morth have been directly engaged -- and Michael never mentioned it), it is interesting to note that when Copp questioned the bone fides of Gorba and his cohorts as capable of delivering on their end of the arrangement, Gorba carefully noted that since these discussions began w/ Michael & Schwimmer, there has not been a single Islamic Jihad bomb threat, hijacking or kidnepping -- and that there would be none if this "worked." D.K., Copp and 1 regard this to be at least one sign of confidence that this activity may yet prosper. There are some lesser indications of confidence in recent days:

-- in response to Copp's demand for funds to be deposited in advance to defray operational costs, and what the Iranians were told were "purchases" on the arms market" a total of 841H has been deposited;

-- the 18 MAKEs delivered last usek have been repackaged and are ready for return to origin on the next available flight;

-- the parties in Europe continue to stress that their requirements are long-term and that they are anxious to get on with a longer range program

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of Israeli originated support which would include technical assistance u/ regard Gorba at one point noted that at times they have as few as 58 operational tanks and less then a dozen flyable excraft).

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With all of the above as a lengthy preamble describing two nearly frantic weeks w/ the [graelis & Iranians, the following proposal has evolved which the Iranians today said they ud like to discuss in detail on Saturday:

-- The total "package" from the Israelis ud consist of 58 I HAWKs u/ PIP (product improvement package) and 3300 basic TOUs.

Deliveries ud commence on or about 12 December as follows:

1 787 w/300 TOWs = 1 AMCIT 1 787 (same A/C) w/300 TOWs = 1 AMCIT 1 747 w/50 HAWKs & 400 TOWs = 2 AMCITs H+1 Ches: H+16hrs:

1 787 u/300 TOUS # 1 AMCIT H+20hrs: 1 747 u/2000 TOVs = French Hostage H+24hra:

33--

All involved on our side recognize that this does not meet one of the basic criteria established at the opening of this venture: a single transaction which ud be preceded by a release of the hostages. However, given the points above regarding the mutual distrust in the dialogue, we all believe it is about the only way we can get the overall process moving. Measures have been taken to reduce the chance for duplicity on the part of Measures have been taken to reduce the chance for duplicity on the part of the Iranians and to preserve a measure of OPSEC in carrying out the transaction. In the case of a double cross, one of the Iranians utll be in the hands of assets we control throughout. One of them the salready suffered a serious (though apparently not fatal) heart attack after last week's HAMK transaction failed to produce results. The first two deliveries, via 707 freighters are relatively small and if they do not produce the desired outcomes, all else stops. All 8 are now under our control. control.

OpSEC concerns are threefold: communications, deliveries enroute to Iran and replemishment of the Israeli stocks. To solve the first problem an OPS Code is now in use by all parties. This code is similar to the one used to oversee deliveries to the Nicaraguan Resistance and has never been compromised. The delivery/flight planning security problem has been solved by a much more deliberate selection of aircraft and aircraus as well as a series of transient airfields which can be used enroute to the field controlled by the Iranian Army at Tebriz. Appropriate arrangements have also been made to ensure that the overflight of challenged. All A/C will be inspected by one of the Iranians at a transient location between Tel Aviv and Tabriz. Before the A/C actually crosses into Iranian eirspece, the appropriate release(s) must occur.
The last OPSEC concern, that of replenishing Israeli stocks, is probably the most delicate issue. The quantity of TOMs requested represents

Heron and I are working u/ the Israeli murchasing Heron and I are working w/ the Israeli purchasing office in NYC to ensure that the replenishment can be accomplished quickly after December 12 as possible. All recognize that quantities degrade Israeli readiness and that the items will need to be dispatched quickly in order to preclude disaffection and leaks. . Meron has solved at least one of the problems in this regard by identifying a means of

transferring the required cash to an IDF account which will allow cash (rather than FMS credit) purchases from the U.S. In order to put this plan into action, Kinche, Copp, Schwinner and Goode plan to meet in London on Saturday morning to review all arrangements.

MAPENDON IF

we are satisfied that all our assets (money, sircraft, sircreus, transit facilities, overflight arrangements and military equipment) are prepared, Copp and Kinche will neet at another hotel with Sorbe and to finalize the plan. Our side will then reconvene later in the evening at our hotel to review any last minute changes. I ud then call you (using the Ops code), transmit the agreed upon arrangements for approval and, if you concur, Kinche & Copp will neet again u/ the Iranians on Sunday a.m.

10 express our agreement with the plan. Copp & Goode wd return to the U.S. Sunday p.m. on separate flights. On the lith, the day before the plan is to be executed, Copp will establish a CP in at the controlled sirfield where he can monitor implementation and stop it at any point we desire. The secondary fields where not witting of the true origin, destination or controlled assets who are not witting of the true origin, destination or contents of the A/C but who can "fix" things in a hurry if something goes wrong. One of our other people will be in contact in throughout.

Once in hand, the hostages will be flown to Larnaca on our Navy HM-53 where they will be picked up by a EUCON C-141 and flown to Wiesbaden for debriefing. 18hrs later Oakley will proceed from Andreus AFS to Viesbaded with family members -- thus allowing us 24 uninterrupted hours for debriefing. The debrief team: will be staged at Viesbaden 12 hours in advance, just as we did two weeks ago without notariety. Dewey is the only other person fully witting of this entire plan. Copp is not briefed on though he suspects. The Israelis are in the same position. Dewey and I have been through the whole concept twice looking for holes and can find little that can be done to improve it given the "trust factor" with the Iranians. In that all parties involved have

preat interest in keeping this as quiet as possible, we believe it to be worth the risk. I have not confided in Dewey re the longer term goals we could/should hope to achieve. Thus, the only parties fully aware of all dimensions of what we are about are you and RCM.

I have given careful consideration to what you suggested re an RCN meeting with the Iranians in an effort to obtain release of the hostages before starting on an effort to undo the present regions in Tehran. Like you and Bud, I find the idea of bartering over the lives of these poor men repugnant. Nonetheless, I believe that we are, at this point, barring unforseen developments in London or Tel Aviv, too far along with the Iranians to risk turning back now. If we do not at least make one more try at this point, we stand a good chance of condemning some or all to death and a renewed wave of Islanic Jihed terrorism. While the risks of proceeding are significant, the risks of not trying one last time are even greater.

E N D O F N O T E

L23 C30

Date and time

12/04/85 02:02:55

From: NSOLN --CPUA To: NSJMP --CPUA

Reserve

*** Reply to note of 88/31/85 13:26

-- septet --

NOTE FROM: OLIVER NORTH Subject: PRIVATE BLANK CHECK

Subject: Current Status of Operation Recovery: Following summery is

EXHIBIT DRC-10

UNCLASSIFIED

28 November 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

The following is a reconstruction of cryptic notes that I have from a 5 December 1985 meeting in DDCI John N. McMahon's Office with then DDI, Bob Gates; D/NESA, then ADDO, Ed Juchniewicz; then C/ME Division; and I believe then DC/Europe

- O The DDCI requested facts on the following by the next day:
 - -- The political scene in Iran, including any possible disserson, unrest, etc;
 - --Biography of
 - --Verification of
 - -- Was it true that Iran was trying to get U.S. Nawk missiles to knock out Soviet Bear aircraft over Iran or the Iran/Iraq border.
 - --The status of the Iran/Iraq war, including a prognosis of what each might do and a table reflecting an order of battle for each side.
- $^{\rm O}$ DDCI noted that he would be attending a meeting at 10:00 AM on Saturday, 7 December, with the President regarding the expansion of the informal link between the Iranians and the Israelis;
 - --He noted that a new "private interlocutor" was working with Israeli Foreign Ministry Official David Kimche;
 - --Noted that Iran wanted to get closer to the United States and wondered (DDCI) whether this could be a ruse to get Hawk missiles.
- O DDCI noted that Saturday's meeting would take stock of the two-track program now underway: one to free the hostages and the other to expand our ties with Iran. Meetings were planned in Geneva between the United States and Iran in the short term.

CIEN # 101

UNCLASSIFIED



under provisions of E.0. 1236

by B. Reper, National Scientific Communications of E.0. 1236

ALC: Y

cevieved what had been done so far:

والأسائلا للايالات فالمقدور والمسائد الايالا باللا بالتائليون وأدم المراهميانة والما

- --One plane load had been sent to the Iranians on 24 November; we did not know if that included Hawk migsiles:
- --Oliver North was to get to London that weekend for discussions; the following week he was arranging up to five plane loads, including 7474.
- -- These would probably overfly going from Israel to Iran;
- -- Prevident signed the finding: (2 on not center who at the matters actually said one)
- -- Oliver North was lining up the planes; we don't know how.
- In response to a question about a clearance for the landing rights, someone noted that the property were standing by;
- A question was raised regarding a plane going to Iran from Jerusalem and possibly stopping in Texas:

No further information was

available.

- O A review of recent Iranian reporting noted the following:
 - --No real opposition that we could capitalise on:
 - --Khomeini seemed to be in better health;
 - -- The economic situation was deteriorating;
 - -- The possibility of a new major offensive could stimulate opposition within Iran;
 - -- Key players were Kimche and the private U.S. citizen-interlocutor.
 - -- Weir released for one plane load; got nothing for second load.
 - --DDCI requested that the source of this information be checked.
- O DDCI also requested any intelligence coverage

CIIN OIOI

-



OCIA had so far spent for a total of on the hostage issue. CCCI emphasized money spent to continue the intelligence flow regarding the location of the hostages was permissible.



EXHIBIT DRC-11

UNCLASSIFIED

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, 0 C. 20105

General Countal

26 November 1985



NOTE FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: Presidential Finding on Middle East

Bill:

Here is a ribbon copy of the Finding we discussed this morning. This is the copy which should be executed.

Stanley Sporkin

ttach

Partially Declassified/Released on 17.01G 1987 under provisions of E.O. 12356 by B. Reger, National Security Council

3575

CIEN 2917





DRAKT

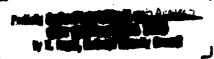
Finding Pursuant to Section 662 of the Poreign Assistance Act of 1961, As Amended, Concerning Operations Undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency in Foreign Countries, Other Than Those Intended Solely for the Purpose of Intelligence Collection

I have been briefed on the efforts being made by private parties to obtain the release of Americans held hostage in the Middle East, and hereby find that the following operations in foreign countries (including all support necessary to such operations) are important to the national security of the United States. Because of the extreme sensitivity of these operations, in the exercise of the President's constitutional authorities, I direct the Director of Central Intelligence not to brief the Congress of the United States, as provided for in Section 501 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, until such time as I may direct otherwise.

SCOPE

Hostage Rescue -Middle East

Partially Declassified/Released on 17 Aug 1767
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by R. State, Medical Especity Council



The White House Washington, D.C.

Date:

QIIN III8

UNCLASSIFIED

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DESCRIPTION

The provision of assistance by the Central Intelligence Agency to private parties in their attempt to obtain the release of Americans held hostage in the Middle East. Such assistance is to include the provision of transportation, communications, and other necessary support. As part of these efforts certain foreign material and munitions may be provided to the Government of Iran which is taking steps to facilitate the release of the American hostages.

All prior actions taken by U.S. Government officials in furtherance of this effort are hereby ratified.



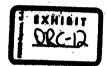
EXHIBIT DRC-12

SECRET UNCLASSIFIED

Exhibit DRCk/2

7 December 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD
SUBJECT: NSC Mission



1. On Saturday, 23 November 1985, Ed Juchniewicz asked me if I was aware of all the activity transpiring on the effort to get the hostages out. He showed me a cable to the asking that we pass a message to the charge from the Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. The message assured the charge that only the Secretary of State and Ambassador Oakley were aware of the operation. I told Juchniewicz that I was unaware of the specifics of the operation but due to the sensitivity of the operation, it was appropriate that we pass correspondence between the MSC and the ambassadors overseas, but only communications, that we could not be involved without a Finding.

2. On Monday, the 25th of November, while visiting the Office of the ODO. Was present and had given Clair George a Spot Report on a flight that had made in support of the NSC mission. I went through the overhead pointing out that there was no way we could become involved in any implementation of this mission without a finding. Mr. Juchniewicz explained that we did not make the arrangements. When General Secord visited the Agency he tried to get leads on airlines that might be available to move equipment to the Near East in a secure fashion. We told him we did not have any such airlift capability. However, Mr. Juchniewicz said it was pointed out to General Secord that there was a commercial airlift that might do it owned by General Secord then took it from there and made arrangements for a flight on a strictly commercial basis.

3. Somewhat distressed at this turn of events, I immediately informed our General Counsel after confirming with Dewey Clarridge our involvement. I instructed the personnel to immediately go over and brief the General Counsel and so advised the General Counsel at 6:15, the evening of 25 November. He informed me later that night that a finding would be required, not so much from the airlift standpoint, but from our involvement in influencing foreign government officials to assist the mission. A Finding was prepared the next day. The Finding was cleared with the Director who called McFarlane and Don Regan to ascertain that indeed this had Presidential approval and to get assurances that a finding would be so signed. After repeated calls to/MSC personnel on 27 November and during the week of 2 December continuously receiving reassurances of the President's intent to sign the Finding, we were notified on 5 December that indeed the Finding was signed. The President directed us not to inform Congress for the reasons of the safety and secure release of the hostages until he so directed.

CIIN 1124

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4. (On 25 November, the Ambassador in cabled the Director personally noting that Ambassador would like to talk to the Director on the telephone. In response, I released a cable to the Ambassador assuring him that the operation that he had been briefed on by the OCH was initiated by the National Security Council but suggesting it would not be wise to attempt to reactivate our request to get approval.)

John M. McMahon

CIIN 1124

UNCLASSIFIED

Exercise Autor 20 533

Exhibit DRC-13



22 NOVEMBE

y summoned to

eceived instructions

ontacted Copp. ontacted Copp. "Everything appears under control. Will now better: 9 0945 hours." Gave contact instructions and formed its standing by.

Only requirement was to assist in verifying phone of PM and FM. "A very senior official will call them."

Advised that previousLFM had approved an Copp called. Advised that previousher had approved an El-Al charger flight before going. But had not signed paper. Now busy morning of 22 November with Foreign Ministry was refusing to issue flight clearances until after FM signed paper. Plane window 20 minutes away. Conn asked Plane"s de L

pointed outnegotiat to with Foreign Ministry best handled by Charge. Copp said he wild recommend same to Mashington. I noted same in cable to indquarters but was advised not to involve Charge.

foregoing. He said Was Copp said plane missed Copp and upated him on on agreed to brining in Charge. Findow but was standing by.

Copp called. said plane exphorne and reaches go no go point circa 1725.

MFA after study opposed clearance and would recommend the to FM

talked yesterday with did not concur. additional information now wastibles

Copp called. told him of above. He called white House VIE request for autho Dewey called and said I did so. to involve

and validated FH out of cabinet meeting.

called FM several times during of the standing by waiting for FM to the standing by waiting for FM to the standing by for instructions. minute

Foreign Ministry still had made no decision. Copp said NSC is now constituted and the mission.

CIIN 23 75 ACT 193687

Partially Declassified / Released on 17 Blue 1987 Reger, National Security Council under provisions of E.O. 12356

6179

wise has requested the phone numbers of the FM and PM. s request queried headquarters to find out if re of mission and if he approves novolvement. Message comes back saying Sec State and Amb Oakley only two State officials aware of mission, they concur and all traffic should be kept in our channels. Copp states MacFarlane trying to phone FM.

sion reached says next step is for should characteristics of aircraft, routes to and frocarso. Upon receipt FM will consider request.

promised note by 1100 hours 23 Nov.

Informed Copp. He said he will allow time for my report to reach Washington then phone to discuss options.

10

Received msg directified to contact to make to sircraft who agreed to sircraft and to note

23 NOVEMBER 85

contacted above MacFarlane mess: that time at MFA. and conveyed e mess. Only person available
A. not aware of telephone conversation
Opined dip note still needed. MacFarlane/FM.

Charge went to For Ministry to meet presented note. Copp phoned to advise of new plan tentative involving three flights by two planes to 23-27 Nov. Copp said he having trouble arrator pranes for to Iran link.

Copp asked if I knew hit was going on-had I been briefed. Said Charge and I in dividud to could make some guesses. Arranged for immediate megiliar at parking Lasted ten minutes. Copp said back ter Hostages deal.

Still no response from Foreign Ministry

told Charge decision reached the hefore conveying
same Foreign Ministry would require the hortest lit had to
contain two statements: a) operation is the undertaken for
operation is the operation would rian reasons, and b) the operation is the free American hostal said if note delivered forthwith, decision would follow immediately. Obvious Implication is decision would be positive. All found no problem with first point CIIN 4375 but hung up on second. Copp deferred to Washington, Copp,

6199

MacFarlane and been trying for past two hours to not successful.

through our channels. Charge sent cable receptants by wording which he believe would accept. Obviously patience running out would accept. Obviously patience running out great at this point for answer received that sion stands and Charge should simply saying "We regret your Government to furnit the USG request for this humanitarian Charge delivered same to FM who was greatly Conversation re self defeating way this entire andled.

Message received from headquarters: "It obvious from above we arclosing down aspect of this operation."

Shut things down

activity handled.



STATEMED BY PETENT

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Subject

1. Subject requested a meeting with Chief, DO/EUR and NIO for Counterterrorism at 1500 hours on 4 December at Headquarters. He explained that he had just returned from PaPIS where he had conducted some unspecified business. While there, he acquired certain documents and other information that he believed would be useful in a collection effort that the NIO/CT is conducting on behalf of LTC Oliver North, NSC Staff relating to the US hostages. Subject also proposed a new initiative against President Qadhafi and Libya utilizing certain resources that he claims to have at his disposal. However, conduct of this anti-Libyan effort would require Agency support. Chief, EUR recommended that subject provide details to the NIO/CT so that this could be evaluated upon his return on 13 December from a trip to Europe.

2. Subject proceeded to inform NIO/CT of private efforts that he had undertaken with White House encouragement to establish contacts within the Iranian government—contacts that were helpful in securing the release of Rev. Benjamin Weir in September. He stated that he had urged National Security Advisor MacFarlane (whom he served as a consultant) over a year ago to undertake an effort to establish links into the Government of Iran and that MacFarlane had agreed that secret, indirect contacts could be established. The objective was to build bridges with more moderate elements of the government in an effort to modify the extremist, anti-Mestern policies of the Khomeini regime and to determine if these moderate elements were strong enough to seize power. Subject stated that he was able to establish contact with some key Iranians utilizing Israeli contacts, including one Col. Jackob Nimrodi, an Israeli who is involved in the international arms market. Subject would not disclose any details on how he met Nimrodi, although the latter allegedly was at one time a Mossad agent. Nimrodi, who has offices in Tel Aviv, London, and New York, introduced him to a Mr. Ghorbanifar, who also uses the pseudonym Asghari. Ghorbanifar, according to Subject, was once an agent for SAVAK, but saw where the Iranian revolution was headed in 1978 and bolted to Khomeini just before the fall of the Shah. Subject describes Ghorbanifar, who has a family in France, apparently also has a girlfriend in California, who has a family in France, apparently also has a girlfriend in California, who is having some difficulty maintaining her allen resident status.

also known as Subject described whose responsibilities are to procure arms for Iran on the international market; he also claims uns a terrorist

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provisions of E.O.



organization in Western Europe, that significant authority in authorizing the procurement of arms in the Office of the Prime Minister. Ghorbanifar and assert that the activities of Hizballah in Lebanon are managed out of the Prime Minister's office. The line of control goes from that office in Tehran

also had influence over Hizballah. These Iranian elements know what group holds the American hostages in Lebanon and can secure their release if a decision is made to do so.

The same holds true for the four remaining hostages held by Hizballah; if it is decided that it is in Iran's interest to secure their release, this can be quickly accomplished.

- 4. Subject explained that the four hostages were expected to be released just before Thanksgiving because of the Hawk missiles that had been delivered with intermediaries (who include, among others David Kimche of Israel). After delivery of 20 of these missiles, Sutherland, Anderson, Jenco and Jacobsen were to be released in West Beirut; once these four were released, another 100 Hawk missiles would be delivered to Iran. This did not occur because there were disagreements over the particular model of the Hawk missile that was delivered to be a 28 November was frantically trying to contact Majles Speaker Ransanjani, urging him to reciprocate by freeing the hostages now that the Americans had shown "good faith" by permitting the shipment of Hawks to Tabriz. According to Subject, the disagreement appears to have resulted from a misunderstanding on both sides concerning what specific type of equipment was requested. The second of the Hawk specific type of equipment was requested. The second of the Hawk system word, again through intermediaries, to Hacfarlane that Iran was displeased because it did not get the correct equipment. Subject stated that the Iranians apparently had expected a newer, modified version of the Hawk system. According to Subject, the opportunity to deal with Iran now is "excellent" because Tehran is "desperate" for specific types of equipment such as the TOW anti-tank missiles. He also noted that neither Iran nor its surrogate has attacked or kidnapped any Americans in some months. The crew, for example, that had flown in the Hawk missiles had not only been permitted to return unimpeded but were given "caviar" to eat on their flight out of Iran. These developments auger well for the United States and every effort should be made to exploit Tehran's need for arms in order to build bridges with more moderate elements of the Iranian government and to preclude additional attacks against American interests. This was a long term strategy that the United States—with caution and discretion—needs to purs
- 5. Subject again turned to Ghorbanifar. The latter, at great personal risk, travels to Iran about once a month to discuss weapons procurement. Ghorbanifar has even traveled to Israel--without Tehran's knowledge--to meet with Israeli officials. All told, Subject has had about a dozen meetings with Ghorbanifar in France, Switzerland, Israel, and the United States. In fact, Subject arranged for Ghorbanifar to come to the US in October and actually brought Ghorbanifar into the White House. As a result, Ghorbanifar enhanced his credibility with senior Iranian officials, including Rafsanjani, who believes that Vice President Bush is orchestrating the US initiative with Iran. In fact, according to Subject, Rafsanjani believes that Bush is the most powerful man in the US because in the latter of the latter of CIA.

JINCLASSIELL!

6. Subject stated that Ghorbanifar had met with Agency officials in the past but that he found that CIA officers did not trust him. Ghorbanifar was extremely reluctant to have further contact with CIA and stated that his experiences with CIA "had been bad".

7. Subject stated that Ghorbanifar had proposed to him a "scam" that would discredit Libyan leader Qadhafi.

the murder of Libyan dissident leader Murgiyah. Ghorbanifar claims that this is an excellent opportunity to plan a "sting operation" against Qadhafi by staging the murder of Murgiyah.

According to Ghorbanifar's plan, arrangements would be made for Murgiyah to reappear after about three months to expose Qadhafi's intent to murder him.

Subject urged that the Agency seriously consider exploring the possibility of supporting such an operation.

8. Subject stated that Ghorbanifar probably has a "limited life span" and speculated that the Iranians may eventually take action against him. Nonetheless, it was important to use fully Ghorbanifar's knowledge and contacts at this stage. Subject noted that he would be traveling again shortly to Europe and would be discussing the proposed Libyan operation further with Ghorbanifar. He was hopeful that, in the meantime, some reaction could be obtained from CIA. Subject noted that he had discussed this issue with Oliver North of the NSC who favors the undertaking of this operation.

9. Subject claims that Ghorbanifar has good bona fides with and that the risk of running the sting operation is "relatively low". Moreover, in his view, the risk of exposing the US hand was equally small.

10. Subject also claimed, without further explanation, that the been recruited and would do the bidding of those working on freeing the American hostages.

Charles Oller

EXHIBIT DRC-15

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20106

Non-Log

9683

January 24, 1986

707-000R81

SENSITIVE

ACTION

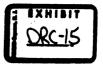
PLEASE DESTROY AFTER READING

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Operation Recovery



Please find attached at Tab A a <u>notional</u> timeline for major e ents in Operation Recovery. To my knowledge the only persons c pletely cognizent of this schedule are:

John Poindexter Don Fortier Oliver North

John McMahon Clair George

Dewey Clarridge

Richard Secord Amiram Nir Prime Minister Shimon Peres NOV 29 1986

Copy is Receipt

RECOMMENDATION

That you privately discuss the attachment with the President.

Approve Disapprove

Attachment

Tab A - Notional Timeline for Operation Recovers

Copy is Receipt

OADR

SENSITIVE

N 9689

UNCLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

PLEASE DESTROY AFTER READING

9690

NOV 29 .556

Notional Timeline for Operation Recovery

Friday, January 24

- CIA provide cube and weight data to Copp for a/c loading.
- CIA prepare intel sample for pass to Gorba.
- Copp provide a/c tail # to CIA for pickup at

Saturday, January 25

Dispatch intel sample to Gorba via charlie Allen.

Copy s Person Sunday, January 26

- C. Allen deliver intel sample to Gorba at Churchill Hotel; London.
- Copp finalize a/c requirements w/air carrier in Oklahoma.

Monday, January 27

Gorba place intel sample on 1300 GMT flight to Tehran fm Frankfurt, Germany.

Wednesday, January 29

- Gorba transfer funds for purchase/transport of 1000 basic TOWs to Israeli account at Credit Suisse Bank, Geneva.
- Israeli account manager automatically transfers deposit fm Israeli account to Copp account in same bank (bank record keeping transaction).
- Copp's account manager automatically transfers \$6M to CIA account in same bank (bank record keeping transaction).

PLEASE DESTROY AFTER READING

Declassify: OADR

SENSITIVE

> 6 3 :

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ENSITIVE الكاث NCV 29 1986

Thursday, January 30

- Copy is Receipt CIA transfers \$6M to DOD account by wire service transaction.
- CIA orders movement of 1000 TOW missiles fm DOD storage facility Anniston, Alabama, to
- CIA bills Copp account \$26% for cost of moving 1000 TOW missiles fm Anniston, Alabama, to

Friday, January 31

Sunday, February 2

- Copp travels to Israel for site survey of transfer point (Eliat, Israel).
- Copp proceeds to rendezvous in Rome w/Clarridge to establish command post.

Monday, February 3

SENSITIVE

UNCLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

9692

3

PLEASE DESTROY AFTER READING

RECTIVED NOV 29 398

Tuesday, February 4

-- 1000 TOWs sanitized and prepared for shipping

Copy CD

Copp a/c packers arrive and arrange for Copp a/c to lift TOWs fm Kelly AF Base, San Antonio, TX, on CIA contract.

Wednesday, February 5

- -- Copp a/c arrives Kelly AF Base for loading.
- -- CIA provides remainder of first intel sample to Gorba at Iranian Embassy in Bonn, Germany.

Thursday, February 6

- -- Copp a/c commence lifting TOWs fm Kelly AF Base to transfer point at Eliat, Israel.
- -- Israeli AF "sterilized" 707 a/c arrives at transfer point for loading.
- -- Copp aircrew arrives Eliat, Israel, to pilot Israeli a/c.
- -- Remainder of first intel sample flown fm Germany to Tehran in diplomatic pouch on scheduled Iran Airways flight.

Friday, February 7

-- Israeli "sterile" a/c piloted by Copp crew commences movement of TOWs fm Eliat to Bandar Abbas, Iran, via Red Sea route.

PLEASE DESTROY AFTER READING

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SENSITIVE

TOP-OBCRET

TOP SECRETA 9693

TOP-GRONDE

SENSITIVE

PLEASE DESTROY AFTER READING

RECEIVED

Saturday, February \$

NOV 29 1988

- -- Delivery of 1000 TOWs completed.
- CODY IS RECT OF
- -- 25 Hizballah released by Lahad.
- -- Returning Israeli a/c pickup 18 HAWKs at Tehran airport for return to Israel.

Sunday, February 9

- -- All U.S. hostages released to U.S./British or Swiss Embassy.
- -- Second group of 25 Hizballah released by Lahad.
- -- Israelis return \$5.4M to Gorba when HAWKs land in Israel.

Monday, February 10

- -- Gorba transfers funds to Israel account for purchase/transportation of 3000 TOWs (amount transferred is sufficient to cover purchase of 508 additional TOWs owed to Israel for Weir release and all transportation costs).
- -- Israelis transfer funds to Copp account at Credit Suisse Bank, Geneva.
- -- Copp transfers funds to CIA account for purchase/transportation of 3508 TOWS (\$21.048M).
- -- Four (4) remaining Lebanese-Jews released by Hirballah.

Tuesday, February 11 (Anniversary of Iranian-Islamic Revolution)

- -- Khomheini steps down.
- -- CIA transfers \$21.048M to DOD account for purchase of 3508 TOWs at \$6K each.
- -- CIA starts moving TOWs to Alabama, in lots of 1000.

fm Anniston,

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The Mary State Country

PLEASE DESTROY AFTER READING

Thursday, February 13

-- Copp packers return to



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F3;
NOV 29 :996
CODY 15 Range 21

Tuesday, February 18

- -- Copp a/c pickup 1000 TOWs at Kelly AF Base, Texas; deliver to transfer point (Eliat).
- -- Israeli "sterilized" 707 a/c w/Copp crew commences delivery of 1000 TOWs to Iran.

Thursday, February 20

- -- Copp a/c pickup 1000 TOWs at Kelly AF Base, Texas; deliver to transfer point (Eliat).
- -- Israeli "sterilized" 707 a/c w/Copp crew commences delivery of 1000 TOWs to Iran.

Saturday, February 22

- -- Copp a/c pickup 1000 TOWs at Kelly AF Base, Texas; deliver to transfer point (Eliat).
- -- Israeli "sterilized" 707 a/c w/Copp crew commences delivery of 1000 TOWs to Iran.

Monday, February 24

- -- Copp a/c returns to pickup 508 TOWs for delivery to Israel.
- -- Collett (British hostage) and Italian hostages released and Buckley remains returned.

Tuesday, February 25

-- Second sample of intel provided to Gorba at Iranian Embassy in Bonn, Germany.



"UNGERSSHIED"

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EXHIBIT DRC-16

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May 22, 1986

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ACTION

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NOV 29 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH N

SUBJECT:

Hostage Recovery Plan

Copy is Receipt

Attached for your information are papers which contain essential information and action requirements for the execution of the hostage recovery plan.

Tab I is the operation order and time table for the critical events of the plan. The following people will have copies of this timetable: Clair George, Dewey Clarridge, and Bob Earl. have established a communications plan in which the travelling party will make routine contact in order to apprise the appropriate people of progress along the timetable.

Tab II is the U.S.-Iran Terms of Reference (TOR) that will be used by Bud during our discussions with the Iranians.

Tab III contains three different sets of press guidance for use:

upon release of the hostages in Beirut;

upon the non-hostile disglosure of the party's visit to Iran; and

the hostile discovery and abduction of the party while in Iran.

Tab VI is a memo from you to the Secretaries of State and Defense, the CJCS, and the Director, FBI to execute the established interagency plan (Tab A) to receive, debrief, and reunite our citizens. This memo will follow-up a secure conference call upo hostages release

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RECOMMENDATION

That you retain this package for your reference.

Approve

Disapprove ___

letachmente

Tab I - Operations Plan and Timetable

Tab II - U.S.-Iran Terms Or Mere

Tab VI - Poindexter Memo t/ Departments/Agencies
Tab A - Interagency Plan

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OPERATIONS PLAN

Objective: To secure the return of four American hostages who continue to be held by Hizballah elements in Lebanon.

<u>Concept</u>: Provide incentives for the Government of Iran to intervene with those who hold the American hostages and secure their safe release.

Tasking: CIA

- 1. Arrange for delivery of supplies from to Kelley AFB NLT 1100 CDT Thursday, May 22.
- 2. Provide interpreter, two communicators, four PRT-250 SATCOM secure voice terminals, transponder beacon(s), and travel documentation at Dulles Airport, Washington, D.C. for departure NLT 0100 EDT, Friday, May 23, for Tel Aviv.
- 3. Provide intelligence briefing package with photos.
- 4. Fund maintenance and test/calibration of two Phase I radars at Letterkenney, PA. Investigate availability of two Phase II radars from DOD/FMS channels.
- 5. Provides communication plan (schedule, frequencies, etc.) and SOP (distress codes, etc.).
- Recommends site and conditions for hostage release in Beirut.



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Commercial Aviation Services (Democracy Inc. Charter)

- 1. 707 #1 arrive Kelley AFS by 1100 CDT, Thursday, May 22.
- Load supplies and depart by 1700 CDT, Thursday, May 22 for LOD.
- 3. 707 #2 arrive Kelley AFB by 1100 CDT, Friday, Nay 23.
- 4. Load TOWs and depart by 2000 CDT, Friday, May 23.

Democracy, Inc.

- 1. Provide two vetted 707 crews for Israeli aircraft.
- 2. Provide Swiss Air Learjet for Copp from Geneva on Thursday, May 22, to Tel Aviv.
- 3. Provide CANAIR Challenger for delegation airlift from Dulles to Ramstein AFB on Friday, May 23.
- 4. Provide six BLACKHAMR .357 magnums in presentation boxes.
- 5. Copp provides limison on SATCOM or telephone/encryption device from Tel Aviv, connecting the party in T. with CIA/MSC.

Israelis

- Provide funding for TOWs.
- 2. Provide two black 707 aircraft for flight from Tel Aviv to T. on Saturday, May 24, and on order respectively (second aircraft probably on May 26 or 27).
- 3. Provide liaison officer to the RCM delegation to T.

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- Provides senior emissary and two staff members for delegation to T.
- 2. Provides staff officer for interface/liaison from White House with Copp in Tel Aviv.
- 3. Provides contingency press guidance for hostage release, non-hostile discovery of the T. delegation, and hostile discovery of the delegation.



5. Provides TRW encyption device for tertiary secure communications capability in T., Tel Aviv, and Wash, DC.



- 7. Arranges for alerting and dispatch of hostage reception team to Frankfurt on order.
- 8. Arranges for notification of families after release of hostages and travel to Frankfurt 24 to 36 hours after release of hostages.
- 9. Arranges for special aircraft to pickup RCM delegation in Tel Aviv and return to U.S. (NLT Thursday, May 29).

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DOD

- 1. Provides supplies/equipment as required through intermediaries.
- 2. Provides transportation for hostage reception team from Washington, DC, to Frankfurt on order.
- 3. Provides transportation and/or support for recovery of the hostages from the release point in Beirut and further transfer to Frankfurt as required.

Administrative and Logistics

1. All personnel to T. to carry

passports

- 3. Sequence of events calendar attached at Tab A.
- 4. Summary of supporting activies is at Tab B.

Communications

- 1. RCM is in charge of delegation to T. JMP to represent the President in Washington discussions. Second in command of delegation = North. Third in command = Cave.
- 2. Comm plan to be promulgated separately (Thursday, May 22) by CIA.

Primary means = SATCOM Tel Aviv to T. and to Wash, DC

Secondary means = CIA encryption device on telephone from T.

to Tel Aviv (Copp), hence to Wash, DC

Tertiary means - MSC encryption device on telephone from T.

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- Cancellation. Delegation to confirm operation prior to departure from Tel Aviv.
- 4. Rehearsal. None, except limited comm check, Tuesday, May 20.

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May 22/1400

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS CALENDAR

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DC (EDT)	Local	
Thursday	, May 22	
0800	0800	
1200	1100	707 charter #1 arr Kelly AFB (SKF)
1500	2000	Copp dep Geneva via Lear 35 enroute TLV
1800	1700	707 charter #1 dep Kelly AFB
1845	1845	North dep Dulles (PA #106) enroute London
2000	0200(Fri)	Copp arr TLV, establishes secure phone comms
Friday, F	1ay 23	
0300	0800	
0700-	1400	707 Charter #1 arr TLV; commence transload to IAF 707 #A
0800	0800	CANAIR Challenger (a/c # 600-MK) W/RCM party dep Dulles for
0830	1330	North dep London via Lear 35 (21t CAPT) for
1200	1100	707 charter #2 arr Kelly AFB; loads
1300	2000	North
1400	2100	North dep for TLV via Lear 35
1430	2130	North arr TLV met by Wir
1630	2230	RCM Challenger arr
		clearance/transfer to 707
1830	0030 (Sat)	RCM Party dep
2100	2000	707 charter #2 dep Relly AFB
2230	0530 (Sat)	and the second s
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May 22/1400 ...

DC (EDT) Local N 993B

Saturday, May 24

2200

0700 0000 1000 1700

707 charter #2 arr TLV

RCM party dep TLV via TAP 707 (A) enroute T.

Sunday, May 25

0830 0100

Party arr T.

Monday, May 26 (but NLT Wed, May 28)

1500

Hostages released in Beirut.

H-hr

AmEmb Beirut notifies State Department and White House. NSC notifies RCM delegation.

H+1

NSC action:

order hostage reception team to Wiesbaden; .

arrange

pickup of hostages fm Beirut:;

VIA UH-60

IAF 707 \$2 dep TLV for T.;

H+1 hr

State Department notifies families.

H+2 hrs

H+X hrs

H+3 hrs (or ASAP)

White House press statement.

Hostages evacuated from Lebanon via UH-60 to for flt to met by

Wiesbaden.

#+36 hrs.

Hostage families flown to Wiesbaden.

NLT Thursday, May 29

0100

3080

Party dep T. for TLV (both 707s).

TIME ZONE LEGEND

CDT (Kelly)

EDT

London

Frankfurt

Tel Aviv ,

1700

1730

0900

1000

TAB B

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TOP COORS

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SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES

CTA provides handling for funds, logistics interface for pick-up of supplies/equipment, interpreter, communications personnel and equipment, support in the supplies are support in the su

Commercial Aviation Services provides two 707s for pick-up of DCD supplies/equipment.

DOD provides supplies/equipment, transportation for hostage reception team, and or other support for return of the hostages from Beirut to Frankfurt.

Israel provides two 707 aircraft for separate trips from LOD to T.

Democracy, Inc., provides transportation support as required, technical advice, handling of funds, and gifts for Iranian negotiating team.

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TERMS OF REFERENCE U.S.-Iran Dialogue

- I. BASIC PILLARS OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (Optional)
- -- President Reagan came into office at a time when Iran had had a certain impact on the American political process -perhaps not what you intended.
- -- The President represents and embodies America's recovery from a period of weakness. He has rebuilt American military and economic strength.
- -- Most important, he has restored American will and self-confidence. The U.S. is not afraid to use its power in defense of its interests. We are not intimidated by Soviet pressures, whether on arms control or Angola or Central America or Afghanistan.
- -- At the same time, we are prepared to resolve political problems on the basis of reciprocity.
- -- We see many international trends -- economic, technological, and political -- working in our favor.

II. U.S. POLICY TOWARD IRAN: BASIC PRINCIPLES

- A. U.S. Assessment of Iranian Policy.
- We view the Iranian revolution as a fact. The U.S. is not trying to turn the clock back.
- Our present attitude to Iran is not a product of prejudice or emotion, but a clear-eyed assessment of Iran's present policies.
- Iran has used "revolutionary Islam" as a weapon to undermine pro-Western governments and American interests throughout the Middle East. As long as this is Iran's policy, we are bound to be strategic adversaries.
- Support of terrorism and hostage-taking is part of this strategic pattern. We see it used not only against us, but against our friends. We cannot accept either. Your influence in achieving the release of <u>all</u> hostages/ return of those killed (over time) is essential.

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- We see your activity in many parts of the world, 9941 including even Central America.
- The U.S. knows how Iran views the Soviet Union. But subversion of Western interests and friends objectively serves Soviet interests on a global scale.
- Thus, our assessment is that a decisive Iranian victory in the war with Iraq would only unleash greater regional instability, a further erosion of the Western position, and enhanced opportunities for Soviet trouble-making.
- The U.S. will therefore do what it can to prevent such a development. We regard the war as dangerous in many respects and would like to see an end to it.
- B. Possible Intersections of U.S.-Iranian Interests.
- Despite fundamental conflicts, we perceive several possible intersections of U.S. and Iranian interests. I propose we explore these areas.
- First, the U.S. has had a traditional interest in seeing Iran preserve its territorial integrity and independence. This has not changed. The U.S. opposes Soviet designs on Iran.

Second

we are seeking an end to this conflict and want to use an improved relationship with Iran to further that end.

 Third, we have parallel views on Afghanistan. Soviet policy there is naked aggression, a threat to all in the region.

objective is the same; the soviets must get out and let the Afghan people choose their own course.

- C. U.S. Objective Today.
- We have no illusions about what is possible in our bilateral relations. Perhaps this meeting will reveal only a limited, momentary, tactical coincidence of interests. Perhaps more. We are prepared either way.
- In essence, we are prepared to have whatever kind of relationship with Iran that Iran is prepared to have with us.

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III. SOVIET MILITARY POSTURE

-- Moscow has designs on parts of Iran.

- -- Afghanistan illustrates the price the Soviets are ready to pay to expand areas under their direct control.
- Summarize Soviet capabilities along border and inside Afghanistan which could threaten Tehran.
- -- U.S. is aware of Soviet activity in
- -- Soviet plans

How they would do it.

- -- Iranian support to Sandinista regime in Nicaragua aids and abets Soviet designs -- makes U.S.-Iranian relationship more difficult (\$100 million in oil, plus arms).
- -- U.S. can help Iran cope with Soviet threat.
- IV. AFGHANISTAN
- -- May be real value for Iran and U.S. to find ways to cooperate against Moscow in Afghanistan.
- U.S. can provide humanitarian assistance for refugees
- We need to know who you work with, what you already provide, and devise strategy to exploit Iranian comparative advantage.
- V. HARDWARE
- -- We may be prepared to resume a limited military supply relationship.
- However, its evolution and ultimate scope will depend on whether our convergent or our divergent interests come to loom larger in the overall picture.
- -- What does Iran want?

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- DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE

-- We are extremely pleased that the hostages have finally been released.

RELEASE OF U.S. HOSTAGES IN BEIRUT

- -- We do not yet know the precise circumstances and details leading to their release.
- -- We note, however, that there have been a number of overtures over the past year, seeking to obtain release of the U.S. and other foreign hostages in Beirut.
- -- In addition, there have been recent efforts by various humanitarian and other organizations to facilitate the release of the hostages.
- -- We can only assume that the cumulative effect of all of these efforts over the past year have finally produced results.
- -- I recommend you refer your questions to Mr. Waite and to the various organizations that have been making these overtures for release of the hostages.
- -- They will be taken to a U.S. military hospital for a medical examination. Arrangements are being made to reunite them with their families as soon as possible.

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- Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ROLE IN THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES?
- A: The USG has been aware of and has supported or facilitated some, although not all, of these overtures by individuals and organizations. Again, I would refer your specific questions to the individuals or organizations involved.
- Q: WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ORGANIZATIONS WHO HAVE MADE OVERTURES FOR RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES?
- A: I have already mentioned Mr. Terry Waite, who is a representative of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Other religious groups, such as the Catholic Relief Services, havebeen actively attempting to resolve this longstanding problem.
- Q: WHAT WERE THE TERMS OF THEIR RELEASE? WERE THERE ANY CONCESSIONS OR RANSOM?
- A: As a matter of longstanding U.S. policy regarding terrorism, the USG does not make concessions nor pay ransom. We are not yet aware of the circumstances and details of their release.

Hostage	Kidnapped	
Father Lawrence Jenco	08 Jan 1985	
Mr. Terry Anderson, Journalist	16 Mar 1985	
Mr. David Jacobsen, Dir, Am Univ Hospital	28 May 1985	
Mr. Thomas Sutherland, Dean Am Univ, Beirut	10 Jun 1985	
Mr. William Buckley, U.S. political officer	16 Mar, 1984	
1100 1001	na ideceased)	

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DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE BEIRUT HOSTAGES

Assumption: Non-hostile discovery of U.S. party being in Iran

- -- The U.S. has many strategic interests in the Middle East region.
- One of these strategic concerns is to bring an end to the Iran-Iraq war, which has been raging for six years with a variety of political and economic consequences:
 - Massive loss of life and destruction on both sides.
 - Bifurcation of the Arab world, with some Arab states supporting one belligerent and others supporting the other belligerent.
 - Spill-over attacks on commercial shipping in the Gulf
 impact on oil market, shipping industry, maritime insurance, etc.
 - Regional disruption suitable for Soviet exploitation.
- -- The U.S. recently reestablished diplomatic relations with Iraq and has established a political dialogue.
- -- The U.S. seeks also to establish a dialogue with the other belligerent in that terrible war, Iran. There are a variety of issues of mutual concern. Among these are:

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secor (Until released by NSC)

- Q: WHAT HAS BEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ROLE IN THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES?
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HOSTAGE	Kidnapped
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Mr. William Buckley, U.S. political officer	16 Mar, 1984
_	(deceased)

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GEORGE (Until released by NSC) 2

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- Satisfactory ending of the Iran-Iraq war.
- Concern over Soviet military build-up and activities in the region, particularly in Afghanistan.
- The recent upsurge in international terrorism. Our objective to seek the return of our citizens held hostage in Beirut, Lebanon, is obviously a part of that strategic concern.
- -- The U.S. is accordingly engaged in talks as an effort to save lives by seeking a return of peace to the region and a lessening of tensions on a variety of issues.
- -- Because these are sensitive, diplomatic discussions, no further details of the discussions will be released.
- Q: WHO IS REPRESENTING THE U.S. IN THESE DISCUSSIONS?
- A: Former National Security Advisor, Mr. Robert McFarlane, is engaged in this strategic dialogue with the Iranian Government.

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DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE BEIRUT HOSTAGES

Assumption: Hostile discovery of U.S. party in Iran.

- -- The U.S. undertook in good faith a high-level, diplomatic contact with the Iranian Government. The purpose of this diplomatic contact was to engage in a strategic dialogue (see separate talking points) to help bring about a satisfactory end of the Iran-Iraq war, among other things.
- -- The bad faith shown by the Iranians in their actions is astonishing and reprehensible.
- -- After the passage of more than five years since the 1979-80 hostage crisis with Iran had been resolved, we believed that the Iranian government was again prepared to join the ranks of civilized nations and engage in good faith diplomatic discussions on a variety of issues of mutual concern.
- -- Apparently, we were wrong in that assessment.
- -- We call on Iran to release our special diplomatic envoy and his party immediately and unconditionally.
- -- We hold the government of Iran responsible for their safety as well as for their immediate release.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTS
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER

The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
The Director of Central Intelligence

ADMIRAL WILLIAM J. CROWE, JR. The Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. WEBSTER
The Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT:

Interagency Plan for Hostage Release (TS)

Four American hostages were released in Beirut today. It is important that we move quickly to implement the established interagency plan (Tab A) to receive, reunite our citizens. (TS)

The Department of State is designated as lead agency for coordinating the USG effort to receive and reunite those released in accord with the approved plan. (C)

As lead agency, the Department of State will prepare and coordinate appropriate press and Congressional notification. brisfings, as required. (C)

cc: Donald Regan Richard Riley

Attachment Tab A - Interagency PlanUNCLASSIFIED

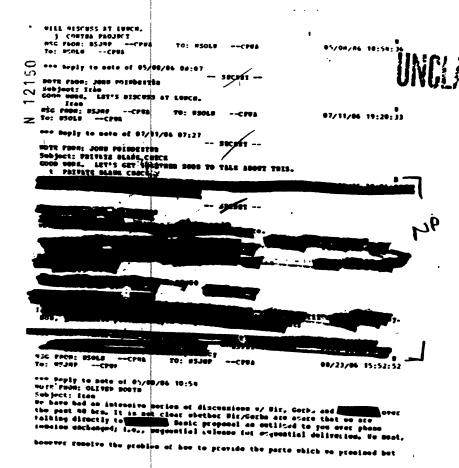
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do ant have to stock. bes essigned an officer to work w/ htm do not now to avoid to find for montaction if nocentary) the cissing/wrong stees. Both Gotha and to the cissing/wrong stees. Both Gotha and to the cissing/wrong stees. erships/veroug stees. Both Gothe as a second to have been told not to ship the 63 defective/steep parts back and that we will backheel them on the next delivery. Copp has been told to heep a crow in readings for a further mission and has been apprised of the general parameters of the arrangement. He notes that from a logistice perspective, the sequential errangement is professible to that it tagaires only one crow and one A/C throughout thus reducing visibility that it requires only one crew and one B/C throughout thus removing visibility and enhancing OPSEC. We should have a better fix on availability of parts early in the week and consubtic have told Gorba and the parts that both sides should bring a technolical expect facilities of the appropriate system to the continuous are. Saving discussed this proposal this a.e. w/ both Clarridge and Cave se all believe this to be the best course of action, especially it we can leave our "technical espect" and a communicator bobind in Tobran. CIR is now looking for a good Ops efficer who is familiar of the system. Dick elready has one idestified, bet CIS of profer to one its one officer if they can find one, we should get back to be reletively los. Nettendarly gives the especience we had in Rey. If you approve, we will not seem to decembe approve, we will not seem to decembe the seem of th Pice to sp ever a seekcod to reduce visible absonce to D.C. BEE SUBJECTS:

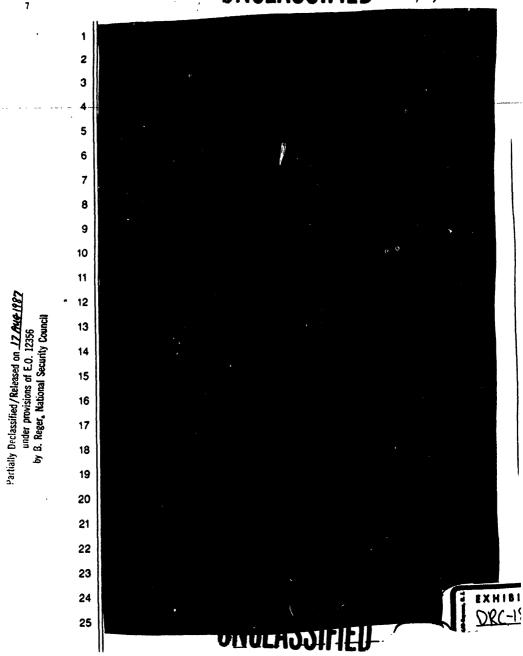
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AD WHITE HOWSE CONNUNICATIONS AGENCY

EXHIBIT DRC-18





123 2 3 4 5 - 6 parenthetically, when in 1984 did this 7 take place? 8 It was -- the best of my recollection, it 9 might have been late March or April. 10 Do you recall any discussion with officials 11 Government about the 12 providing assistance to the contras? 13 No. 14 Did you ask any official in the 15 Government to provide assistance to the contras? 16 No, I didn't. 17 Any request to provide monetary assistance? 18 No. 19 Any request to provide munitions, materiel? 20 No. 21 Training-type assistance? 22 No. 23 So you did not ask that the 24 provide any type 25

3

contras?

That's correct.

. Did they inform you or tell you at any time that they were already providing assistance to the contras?

7

No, they didn't.

8

Did they tell you they were willing to provide assistance to the contras?

No.

10 11

Have you discussed with any -- with officials of any other country the providing of assistance to the contras?

12

Α No.

13 14

Have you ever solicited funds from officials of any other country?

15 16

No.

to the present.

17

MS. McGINN: Can we get a date on these?

18

19

20

21

23

24 25

22

MR. RIZZO: That certainly narrows it down.

THE WITNESS: Have I --

. You are asking him questions about what time frame?

MR. EGGLESTON: "It is ever. I am taking it

MR. EGGLESTON: I am willing to say from 1980

he's answering these questions no. If he were to answer

yes, there's so many occasions I can't delineate them,

70-958 I would probably do it in.a slower one-at-a-time fashion. I am 'anticipating his answer to the question. Ever is going to be it. MS. McGINN: I want to make sure he understands the time frame you are talking about. THE WITNESS: Solicit -- go back to that question again. After we have left BY MR. EGGLESTON: -After-January 1 of 1984, did you make any requests of any countries outside of for assistance to the contras? No. Have you heard of a ship called the Erria? In the spring of 1986, did Colonel North discuss with you a ship that he had available for use

130

1	Q Were there any plans developed at the agency to
2	provide additional or other sources of funds for the
3	contras?
4	A None that I was aware of.
5	Q Did you have any discussions throughout 1984 with
6	Mr. Casey about other ways to fund the contras since the
· 7	CIA money had either run out or been cut off?
8	A No. There never was any discussion.
9	MR. EGGLESTON: I don't have anything further.
10	MR. BARBADORO: A few quick points.
11	examination
12	BY MR. BARBADORO:
13	Q Picking up on what Mr. Eggleston is asking you
14	about, at any point
15	American division, were you aware of any discussions in the
16	agency about soliciting aid from third countries?
17	A No.
18	MS. MCGINN: For the contras?
19	THE WITNESS: What time period are we talking
20	about?
21	BY MR. BARBADONO:

So, let me put a cut-

off of between January 1, 1984 and the time you left the

Latin American division.

23 24 25

22

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HAST VOCATION

λ,

In October.

Now -- ask me the question again.

Q The question is, during that period of time, to your knowledge, were there any discussions in the CIA about soliciting aid from third countries?

A No. Soliciting aid for third countries never came up, to my knowledge.

Q Why was replaced as the head of the Central American task force?

A At that time, we are talking about October. He wasn't going to be replaced. I wanted him to stay on until the spring of -- what year are we in? 1985? I sort of wanted a phase-in with the same from for more than three days is just impossible.

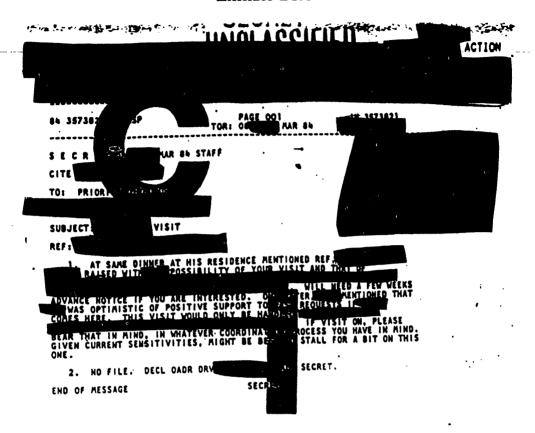
The plan had been for to leave in the spring of 1985, anyway.

Q He was being asked to leave before his normal tour was up. Do you know why?

A I don't know whether he was being asked to leave before his normal tour was up. If a phase of a transfer had happened the way the director wanted it to happen at that time, there would have been a long overlap into the spring of 1985, which would have been when he wanted out, anyway.

Why did they plot to by the ried of overlap

EXHIBIT DRC-19



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Exhibit DRC-19-1

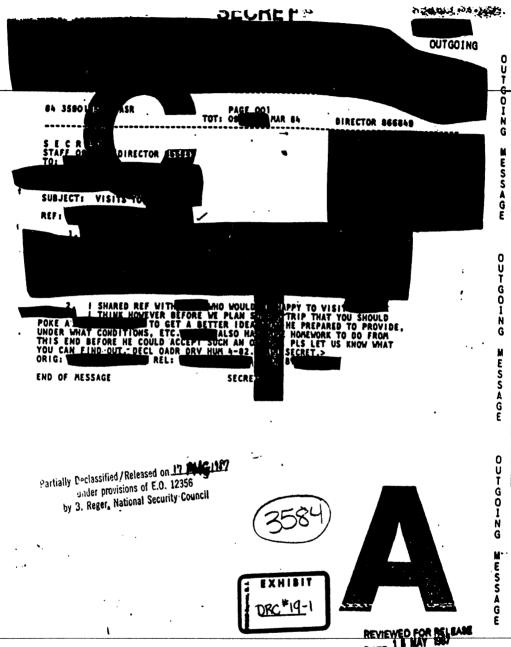
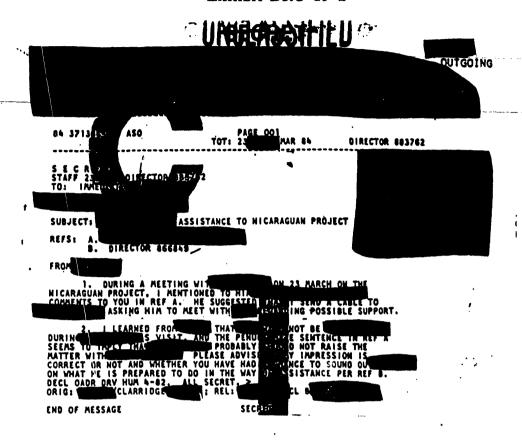
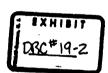


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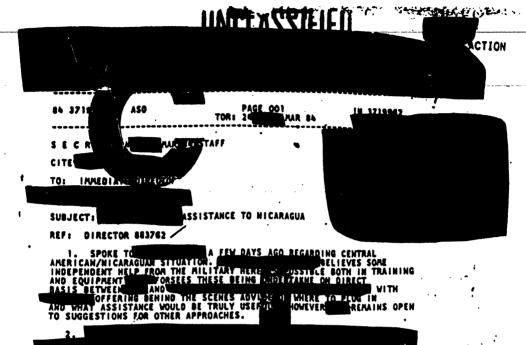


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INCERSE: IE

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EXHIBIT DRC-19-3



WOULD ARE MOST WELCOME ANY TIME, BUT WILL DECUSS WITH AND UPON THEIR ARRIVAL. TO UPOS ONS APPROACH, AND WILL NO DOUBT USE YOUR TRAVEL AND MEETINGS HERE ID NAIL DOWN FINAL APPROVAL FOR SUCH SUPPORT.

3. DELAY BY THE ADDRESSING ISSUE WAS CAUSED BY VERY BELIEVE ONCE COURSE OF COOPERATION AGREED UPON, WE CAN EXPECT EFFICIENT AND RAPID REACTION FROM THEM.

4. FILE: DEFER. DECL DADE DRY HUM .- 82. ALL SECRET.

END OF MESSAGE

SECRET

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Ask DCI if he handed attached

to Mr. McFarlane on Tuesday,

27 Marchi

EYES ONLY

Attached for your EYES ONLY file. No distribution, per DCI. He said Mr. McFarlane will return his copy to us when he is finished with it.

6 April

Executive Registry

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EXHIBIT DRC-19-4

The Director of Central Intelligenc | INCLASSIFIE MANAGER D C 20100

. 27 March 1984

reviring from

HEHORAN

The Honorable Robert C. HcFarlane Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Supply

SUBJECT:

Assistance to Micaragua Program

1. In view of possible difficulties in obtaining supplemental appropriations to carry out the Micaraguan covert action project through the remainder of this year. I am in full agreement that you should explore funding alternatives with thought of putting one of your staff in touch with the appropriate should promptly be pursued. You will recall that the Micaraguan project runs out of funds in mid-May. Although additional moneys are indeed required to continue the project in the staffiscal year, equipment and materiel made available from other source that the fiscal year, equipment and funding. We are therefore currently exps. In part substitute for some funding. We are therefore currently exps. It was substitute for some note, however, that we are unlikely to receive material assistance from these sources by mid-May.

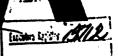
The first of these alternatives

exploring is the procurement ssistance from

4. Finally, after examining legalities, you might consid appropriate private US citizen to establish a foundation that recipient of nongovernmental funds which could be disbursed t

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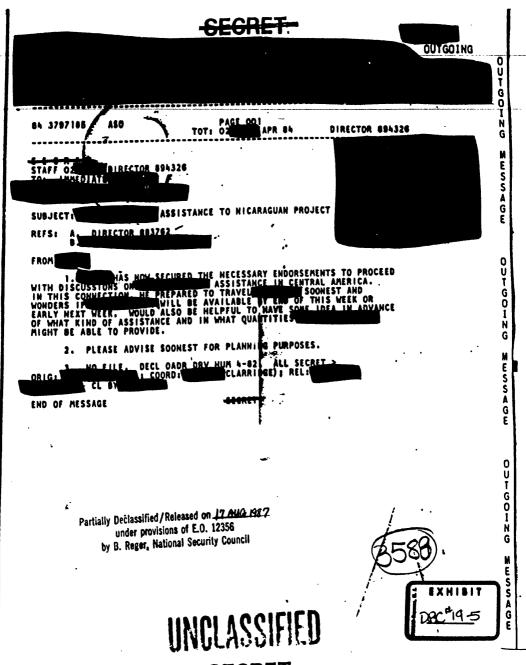




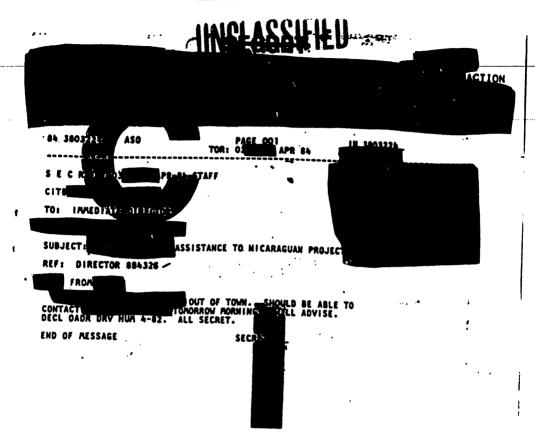
EXHIBIT

DBC 19-L

Exhibit DRC-19-5



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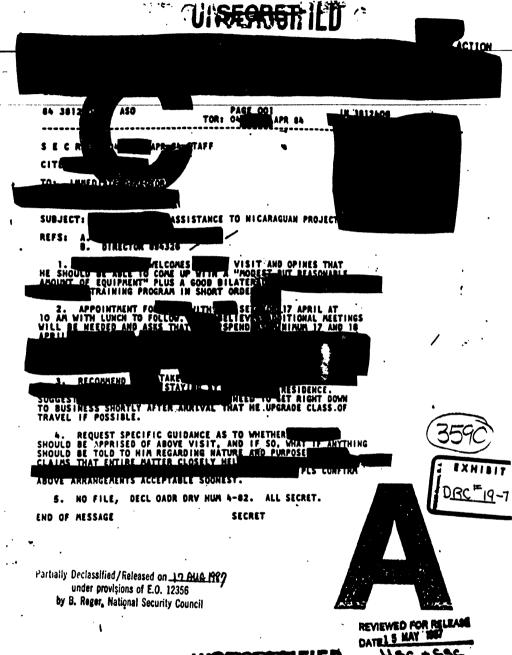


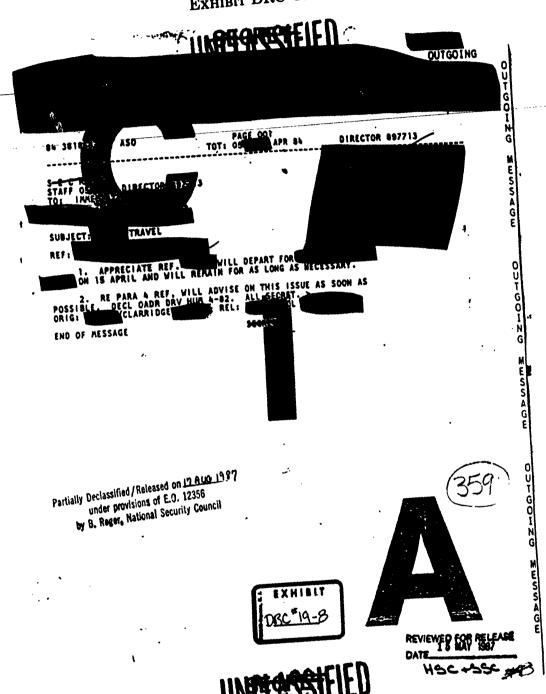
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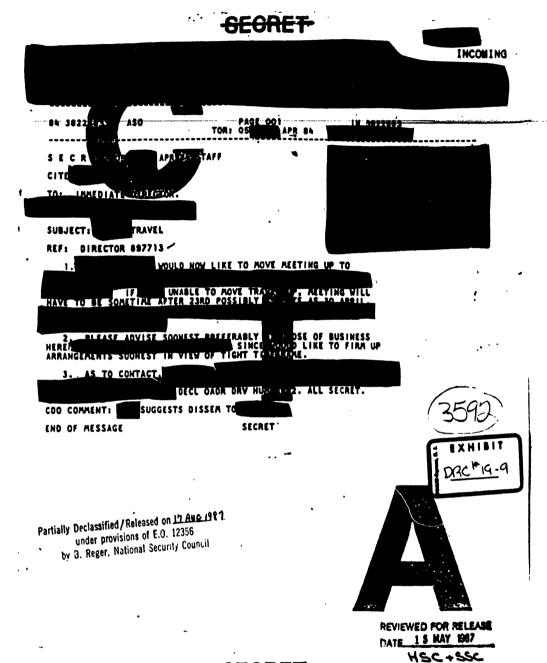
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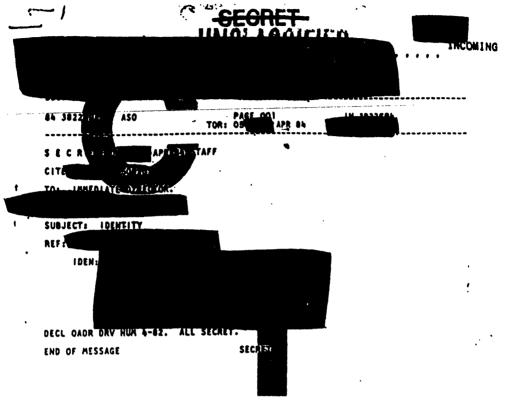
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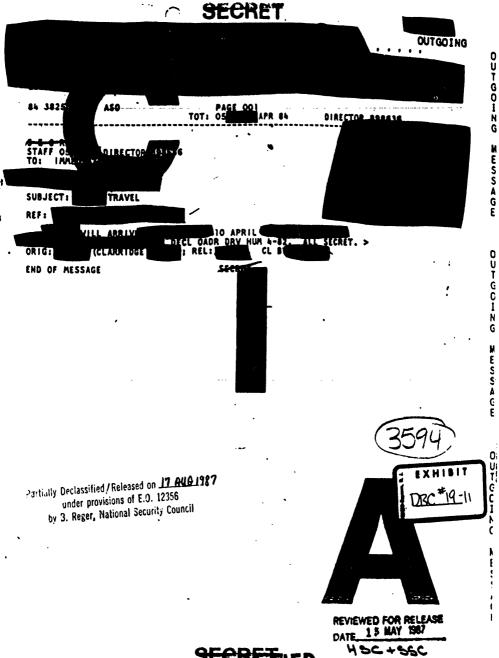


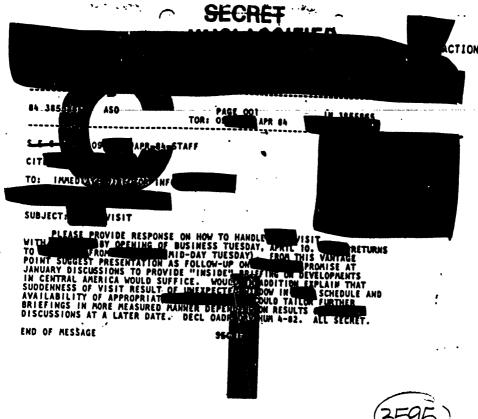
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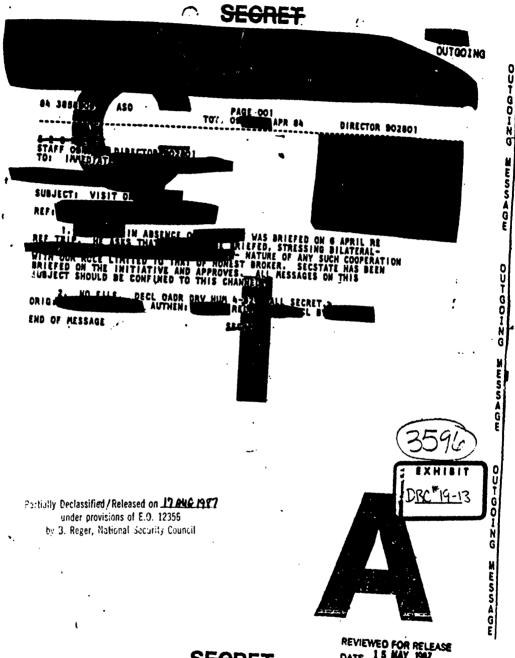


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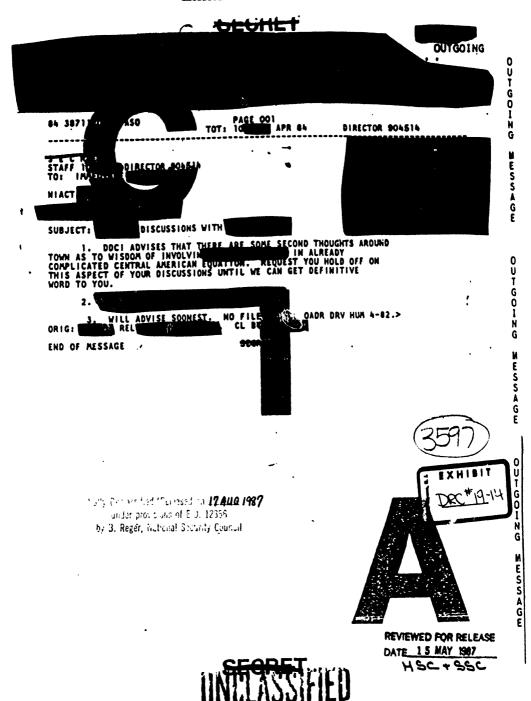


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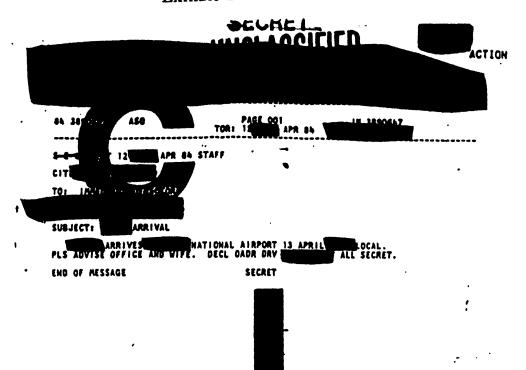


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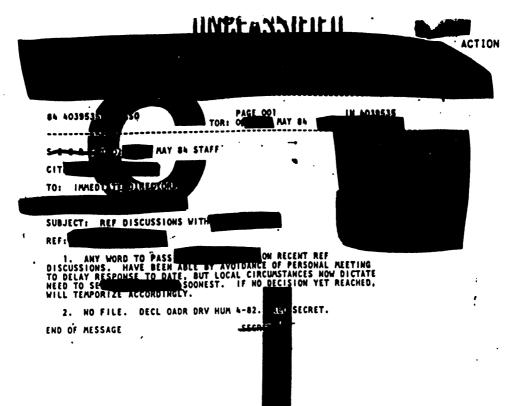


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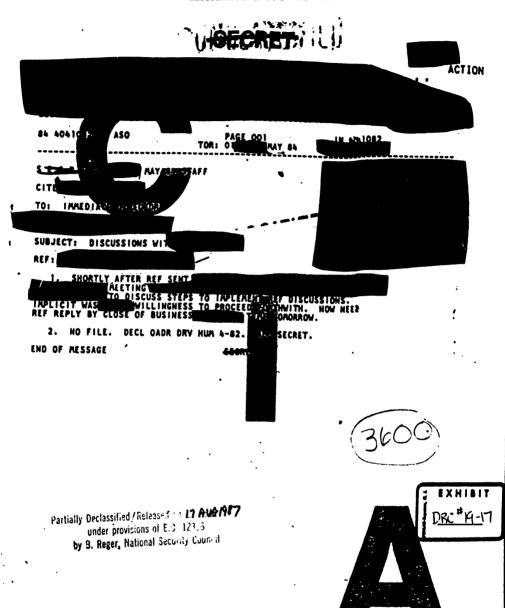
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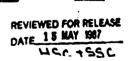
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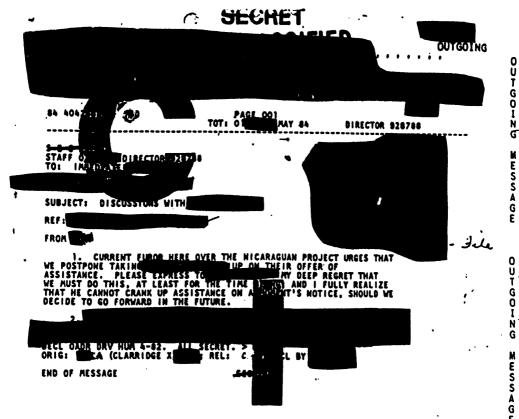


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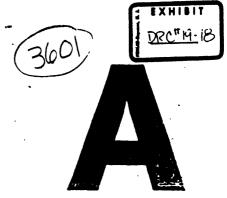


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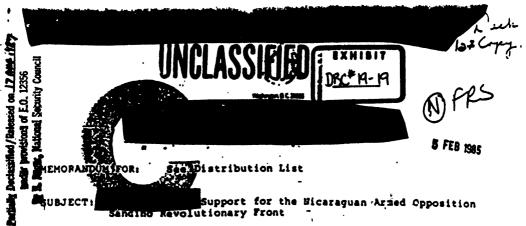
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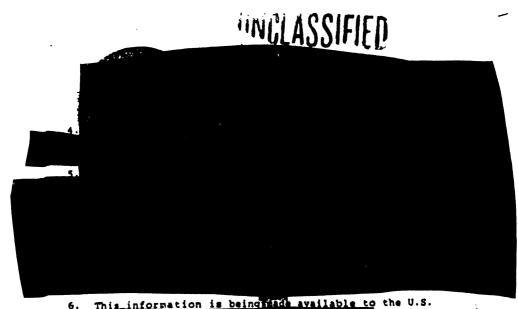
OUTGOING MESSAGE



2. During January 1935, a ship is scheduled to deliver 200,000 pounds of military supplies from the Sandino Revolutionary Front (FRS).

1. During January 1935, a ship is scheduled to deliver 200,000 pounds of military supplies from the Sandino Revolutionary Front (FRS).

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6. This information is being and available to the U.S. and to the

Hounilleli den Lair E. George

Clair E. George
Deputy Director for Operations







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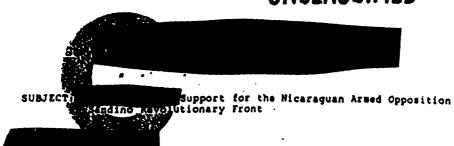
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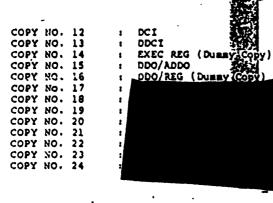


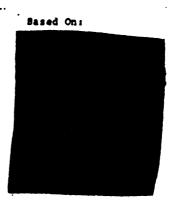


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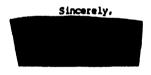
Mr. Neil Eggleston
Deputy Chief Counsel
Select Committee to Investigate Covert
Arms Transactions with Iran
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Eggleston:

You will recall that in my letter of 22 June 1987 to you, I indicated that although we did not anticipate finding any further documents concerning Duane Clarridge's 1984 trip we would provide them if they became available. I am enclosing two such documents that we have just located. (5)

The first, Director 894326 (CIIN\$4292), is a cable that was found as a result of a rereview by hand of archived material. That rereview had been instituted by the committees' continuing interest in this area and by a request dated 2 June for the cable by number from the Senate Select Committee. The rereview was, however, completed only recently, and this cable did not surface in time to be reflected in my 22 June letter to you. (S)

Also enclosed is a copy of a document recently located by the Directorate of Operations Latin America Division as a part of a search of its records on this subject (CIIN 4293). Although undated, it appears to have been prepared shortly after the Clarridge trip. We are not able to establish whether or not the statement was, in fact, provided to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence as the cover note states. (S)



Enclosures as stated

cc: Paul Barbadoro, Deputy Chief Counsel, Select Committee on Secret Military Assistance to Iran and the Nicaraguan Opposition w/enclosures)

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by B. Reger, National Security Council

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REVIEWED FOR RELEASE DATE 1 JUL 1987

of the Directorate of Operations, visited between 9 and 13 April: j1984 at the request or to brief them on developments in Central America At no time did he request or receive any support from for the

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by B. Riefe, Malicus Breaks Breaks

Nicaraguan covert action program.

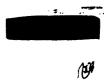
init assififi

36035)

DATE_____

EXHIBIT DRC-20





1	memoranda.
. 2	Q Do you know whether ever did give
3	or provide any funding to the contras?
4	A I suspected they did, but I had no firsthand
5	knowledge.
6	Q What led you to suspect that they did?
7	A Well, when the Boland Amendment came down I
8	wondered what countries could possibly help out, and I
9	figured that
10	and
11	
12	Q Why did you pick those countries as possible
13	donors?
14	A Because they, I think, were well disposed
15	towards the Administration and wanted to help the
16	Administration.
17	Q Are they also countries that might have
18	something to gain from the Administration by supporting a
19	program like this?
20	· A By all means.
21	Q The memorandum says, in the third paragraph:
22	"The second alternative we" meaning the CIA "are
23	exploring is the procurement of assistance from
24	I've also shown you before the deposition a
25	series of cables which we'll get into in a moment about
	TOD COORD CONTRACTOR C

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UNCLASSIFIED ORC-20



70-948

-	one opposite, but can you call me from where did the
2	idea come to go to the to obtain aid for the
3	contras?
4	A I don't know. It's conceivable that when the
5	Agency learned that
6	
7	
8	
9	But I don't
10	know who really originated it.
11	Q You don't know, but you would think that
12	Clarridge might have been the person?
L 3	A Right.
L 4	Q The final alternative mentioned is in
.5	paragraph four and says: "Finally, after examining
. 6	legalities you might consider" and I can't read one of
7	the words "appropriate private U.S. citizen to
8	establish a foundation that can be a recipient of non-
9	government funds which could be dispersed to the FDN."
0	Did you ever discuss during this time period
1	with Director Casey the possibility of finding private
2	citizens to establish a foundation which could receive
3	non-government funds to support the FDN?
4	A No. And, knowing my contacts in the United
5	States, they don't have money to do that.

70-938

TOP SECRET/CODEWORD

-

1	Q Casey never talked to you, though, about that
2	as a possible way of supporting the contras?
3	A No, I don't think he did.
4	Do you know where he came up with this idea
5	that is mentioned in paragraph four of the memorandum?
6	A It could be his fertile mind, because he is
7	always thinking of ways of figuring things out. And, of
8	course, he knows the entire power and financial structure
9	in the United States.
10	Q It was never something he discussed with you,
11	however?
12	A No. I'm sure from his fundraising days for
13	the Republican Party he had a pretty good fix on what
14	people are prepared to help.
15	Q Let me mark as McMahon Exhibit 2 the series of
16	cables concerning the attempt or the discussion about
17	obtaining aid from the record,
18	these cables run by the Committee numbers C-8933 through
19	C-8945, and they run CIIN numbers 3871 through 3883.
20	(The document referred to was
21	marked McMahon Exhibit Number 2
22	for identification.)
23	Mr. McMahon, these are the cables that I
24	showed you before the deposition, correct?
25	A Right.

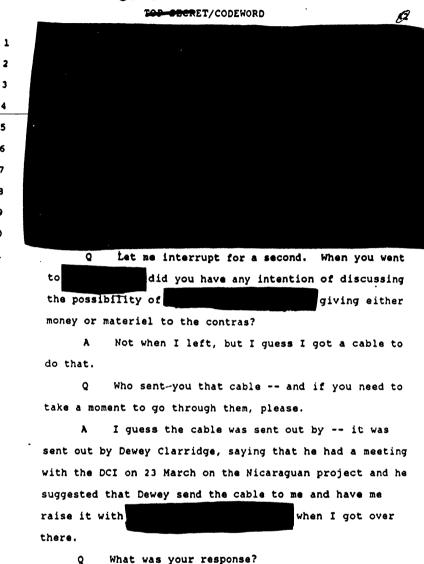
Q . And in general terms they describe a proposed

7:-9:8



2	trip, which did take place, where
3	vent to discuss the
4	possibility of obtaining aid for the
5	contras. However, although the trip took place, the
6	actual attempt to solicit the aid did not take place. Is
7	that a fair summary?
8	A That's my recollection of it. I think we
9	turned him off of that.
10	Q Do you know how it happened that
11	came to go to
12	A I don't know, you know, how that was spawned,
13	but from looking at this it's obvious that he went over
14	to discuss getting access
15	have to use for the contra program.
16	Q Did Director Casey ever discuss this
17	possibility with you of obtaining aid from
18	A Not in the beginning. I think from here it
19	notes that they caught up to me with this idea during a
20	trip.
21	Q Weren't you making a trip to
2 2	around that time?
23	A I was making a trip
24	
25	
	TOP SEGRET/CODEWORD

70-918 Œ a 1 2 3 6 And when I 9 was asked to do this, I said all right, since I'm over 10 there I will go 11 Who asked you to go 12 You decided on your own? 13 Right. 14 15 And what were you going to go 16 to do? Just to touch base with 17 18 20 21 22 But the purpose of the trip was 23 24 25 COL CONTROL CODEWORD





7u--9ub 🕰

TOT SECRET/CODEWORD

64

_	• •		••
2	Q	Did you raise it with	
3			
4	λ	I don't think so	
5			
6			
7			And,
8	therefore	, I don't think it was raised.	
9	Q	Did you have some reluctance al	oout raising
10	that issu	•?	
11	λ	Yes. I didn't think it was a	good idea.
12	Q	Why not?	•
13	λ	Because we had enough problems	with Congress
14	on the Ni	caraguan program	
15			
16			
17			
18	Q	Apart from the problems with Co	ngress are
19	there any	policy reasons why you thought i	t might not be
20	a good ide	ea to solicit aid	for the
21	contras?		
22	λ	No.	
23	Q	When did you learn that	
24		Dewey Clarridge, was pla	nning to make a
25	trip	to ask for aid for th	e contras?
		TOD SECRET/CODEWORD	(21
		UNCLASSIFIED	517

TOP BEENET/CODEWORD

1	A Well, I think ditter I came back he was
2	preparing to go.
3	Q Do you know whether that trip had any other
4	purpose other than to try to obtain aid for the contras?
5	λ I can't say.
6	Q Did you have any discussions with Mr.
7	Clarridge about the trip before he left?
8	A Yes.
9	
10	
11	Q
12	
13	I was dead set
14	going to Nicaragua.
15	Q Had a decision been made by the time
16	Mr. Clarridge left as to whether he was going to ask for
17	aid for the contras?
18	A Yeah. I think that was turned off. I think
19	we knocked that off.
20	Q So you are saying that you think by the time
21	he left the decision had already been made for him not to
22	ask for aid to the contras?
23	A I believe that's the case, yes.
4	Q Okay. Let me try to go over this with you.
5	In one of the cables, Committee number C-8947, it's a
	men encount (contrion)

TOP BECKET CODEWORD

1	cable dated 10 April '84, and if I can read this		
2	correctly it's to IMMEDIATE and it says:		
3.	Subject, Discussions with		
4	advises that there are some second thoughts around town		
5	as to wisdom of involving in already		
6	complicated Central American equation. Request you hold		
7	off on this aspect of your discussions until we can get		
8	definitive word to you.		
9	Let me show you that cable. Can you tell me		
10	who this cable is being sent to?		
11	A It's being sent to		
12	and is being sent out by		
13	who at the time was		
14			
15	1		
16			
17	Q The cryptonym that refers to a		
18			
19	A Yes,		
20			
21	Q What this message says basically is don't do		
22	anything to pursue the Central American issue until we		
23	can give you a definitive answer on what to do; is that		
4	right?		
5	A Right.		
	UNCLASSIFIED		

TOP SECRET/CODEWORE

1	Q The next cable in sequence, C-8948, is to
2	headquarters from and it notes that
3	arrives 13 April
4	read that right? Is that describing the arrival of Dewey
5	Clarridge in
6	A That is correct.
7	Q And at the time of his arrival the decision on
8	what to do on aid to the contras is still unresolved;
9	isn't that right?
10	A That's right.
11	Q In fact, if the decision had been resolved
12	
13	
14	wouldn't you have sent somebody other than
15	
16	A Right. When he went out, though, he had
17	instructions not to raise it. That was an issue that we
18	weren't going to put forth with
.9	Q Well, if you weren't going to raise that,
0	wouldn't you have sent someone other than
1	
2	A I can't answer why he went. There may have
3	been another reason that I don't know.
4	Q Well, let me then refer to the next Cable I
5	have in sequence. It's a cable C-8949, dated 1 May 84,
	TOP-SECRET/CODEWORD

DOP SECRET/CODEWORD

1	to headquarters from It says: "Any word to
. 5	pass on recent reference discussions.
3	Have been able by avoidance of personal meting to delay
4	response to date, but local circumstances now dictate
5	need to see soonest. If no decision yet
6	reached, will temporize accordingly."
7	Do you know what he is referring to?
8	A No. I can't really answer that.
9	Q Isn't he referring to the decision on whether
10	to ask for aid for the contra program?
11	A That would seem logical, in light of what went
12	on before.
13	Q So isn't it the case that as of 1 May the
14	decision on whether to solicit aid for the contra program
15	had not yet been made?
16	A That's possible, yes.
17	Q And finally let me show you the cable C-8945.
18	It is a cable from to
19	and isn't it in this cable when the final
20	decision is communicated to
21	that the strike that. Let me try to do it
2	better.
3	Isn't it in this cable that the final decision
4	is made on whether to solicit aid from
5	the contras?

dop georde/codeword

TOP SECRET/CODEWORD

1	A Yes	. That would be a logical conclusion.
2	· MR.	LEON: What's the date on that, Paul?
3	MR.	BARBADORO: It's dated 1 May 84.
4	BY 1	HR. BARBADORO: (Resuming)
5	Q But	it's your testimony that When Dewey
6	. Clarridge went	he was under instructions
7	not to raise th	he possibility of obtaining aid
8		
9	A Yes.	
10	Q Who	gave him those instructions?
11	A 'Well	, I think I was involved in that,
12		
13		
14	Q	
15	A	
16	Q	
17	Y	
18	A	
19	. Q	·
20		
21	A	
22	Q I wan	nt to pursue this issue of third country
23	funding with you	a little bit further and I want to show
24	you a memorandum	for the record from General Counsel
25	Sporkin, dated J	Tune 26, '84, and let's mark that as

EXHIBIT DRC-21

ARE INDAT SER Ter MIJOLN LECISCO Exhibit DRC'zal N 12601 more render JOHN POINDERTER Subject: Irab Camey called and told so want he wanted to do. I don't think George will se a problem. Se was actually enthusiastic about Care's talking to Tras ESG PROB! ESOLS to: USJRP 09/17/46 12:59:11 To: ESJEP --CP#A *** Toply to mote of 09/10/86 13:15 BOTE PRON: OLIVE BOETS Sebject: Itan Por your note on the surfeillance package I called Casey and told him we need to get on with the parole paperwork in that you had already agreed - and had ferthermore just endotsed the serveillance request. We acknowledged yr approval for the plan but said he was concerned about Sheltz. He said he 'artially Declassified /Released on 12.846 M87 under provisions of E.O. 12356 by 3. Reger, National Security Council PIER: SRP06

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planned to toll Shults in general terms that we were talking to another high level Icanian and that we would fill him is atter the interview. I trotested that experience showed that Shultz would then tolk to ADA could well be the mource of the Jack lederson stuff we have each periodically. Casey Agreed to proceed with the IVS parole paperwork for said the visa for his escort but soled tast be sould still talk privately to Shultz about this. He are now underwaywith getting about a chartered jet out of could not produce an Aircraft on such "seort notice" so dick has chartered the a/c thre one of Project Desocracy's overseas companies. Why Dick can do suspetbing in Seis. that the CIA cannot do in two days is beyond on - but he does. Now the hell he is ever going to pay tor it is also a dative of concern, but Dick is a good soldier and never oven uroused about it. for day want to k to Sec Shultz about below r you as soon as we talk to bis.

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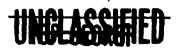
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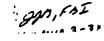
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September 13, 1984

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

HPSCI/SSCI Hearings on U.S. Private Citizens Support to the Nicaraguan Resistance Forces

This is in response to your note on the package at Tab I (SYSTEM II 90962). On Tuesday, September 1 (CIA), Johnstone (State), and Sanchez (DOD) appeared before the SSCI to respond to their questions on the Santa Clara incident. On Wednesday, September 12, Motley (State), Clarridge (CIA), and Commodore Darby (DOD) appeared before the HSPCI on the same issue.

Today the SSCI conducted its world-wide covert action review. Clarridge appeared for the Latin America region. There were ho significant questions about the two Americans killed on the September 1 air raid at Santa Clara. There were, however, several detailed questions/comments about other activities in the region. The summary below reflects input received from each of the Administration participants.

Summary

Congressman McCurdy questioned Motley in detail regarding "what the NSPG had decided to do about the "?" Motley responded that NSPG meetings were not the purview of the Committee, but that the Committee should be aware, since they receive the intelligence, that we were watching the and that we are concerned about them.

Congressman Fowler, in questioning Clarridge, delivered a lengthy exposition on how the Administration was using the delay in deploying as a means of embarrassing the Democrats. He noted that there was no reason for delay and that there "had better not be" an offensive just because the Administration failed to act. Clarridge responded that we needed more time to ensure that

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and

Motley was queried by several members who asked if it was true that the several members who asked if it was support to the FDN clarridge received similar questions about the FDN clarridge received similar questions. Both responded that it was obvious that the FDN did indeed have significant financial support; that this further limited our control; and that we did not know where the support was coming from. Clarridge specifically replied that the support was likely coming from individuals and countries world-wide who feel strongly about the cause of anti-communism. Motley neted that

received similar questions about from the SSCI. He replied that have provided some assistance to ARDE and that could be assisting the FDN.

NOTE: This is a potentially damaging line of question in have regard to both and ammunition to the FDN.

is currently servicing ARDE aircraft at in return, Calero is providing

approximately | million 30cal. M-1 carbine rounds to

This ammunition is excess
to the FDN from the M-1 stocks provided for the Misura
Indian units. Calero is shipping 500 thousand rounds of the
same ammunition to

At today's world-wide covert action review

Senator Leahy. At the care hearing, asked Clarridge

Clarridge responded that
Leahy demanded that
or you will
be in trouble with both sides of the aisle. Clarridge
replied that the Committees would be briefed before
Leahy indicated that this would be
satisfactory.

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RECOMMENDATION

That you retain this summary with the document at Tab I in the event you receive further queries. \sim

Approve ____

Disapprove ____

Attachment Tab I - North Memo to McFarlane (90962) of Sep 10, 1984

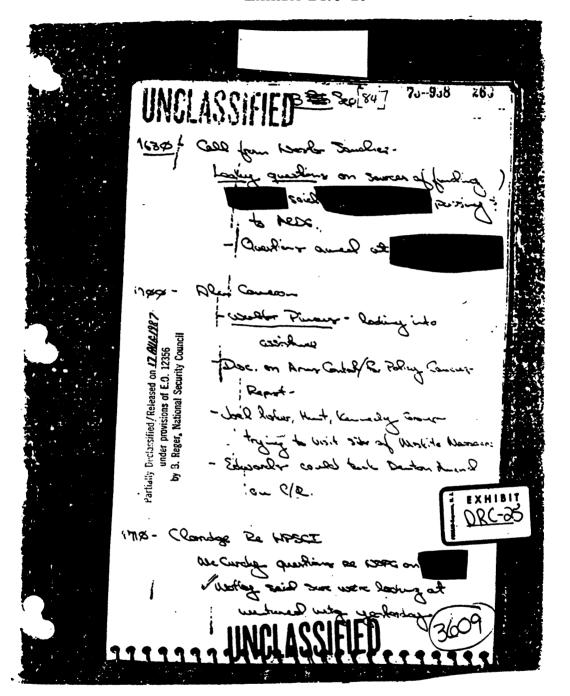
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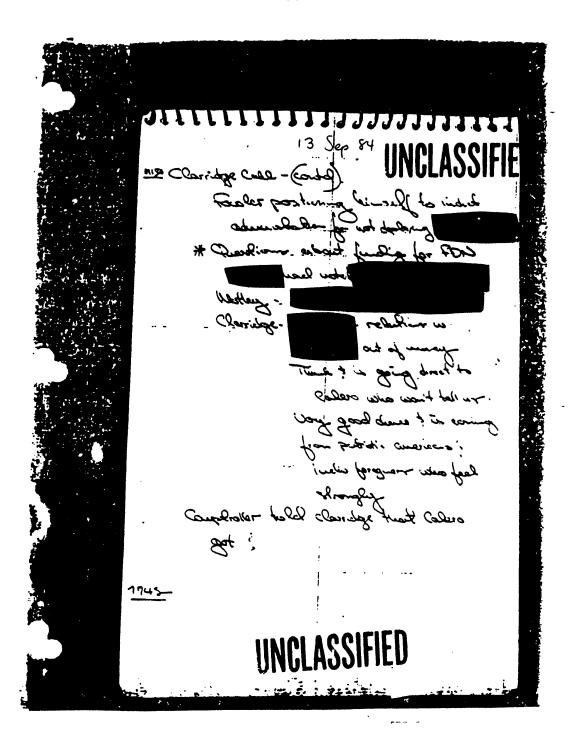
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N 46556

WASHINGTON

14259

September 18, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT

THROUGH:

Admiral Murphy

SUBJECT:

FROM:

Funding for the Contras

In response to your question, Dewey Clarridge supplied the following information:

- U.S. funds to the Contras have been cut off since June of this year (official cutoff was June 1 -final funds trickled out about the 15th).
- Since then, the Contras have been getting funds from other sources, probably private, not governmental.
- A very rough estimate would be that they have received about \$1.5 million. This is based on what we know of the Contra purchases of gasoline, ammunition, etc.
- The Contras are doing well inside Nicaragua, conducting effective small unit actions and capturing enough ammunition to supply their needs.
 - Local support of the Contras is growing inside Nicaragua. The Sandinistas are using artillery against the Contras, but it is ineffective.
- If a Continuing Resolution were passed by Congress, it would contain \$2M per month for aid to the Contras. Dewey does not expect this to happen. He believes that any CR that is passed will specifically probhibit funds to the Contras.
- In his view, the Contras are doing what they were supposed to do and there is not as much need for U.S. involvement.

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- They have put pressure on the Sandinistas.
- The Sandinistas are talking with us.
- The Sendinistas are planning an election.
- None of these things would have happened if the Contras did not exist.

Dewey said that you may use the above in response to questions about the Contras, although he would prefer that no specific figure be mentioned regarding private support to the Contra groups.

cc: Philip Hughes

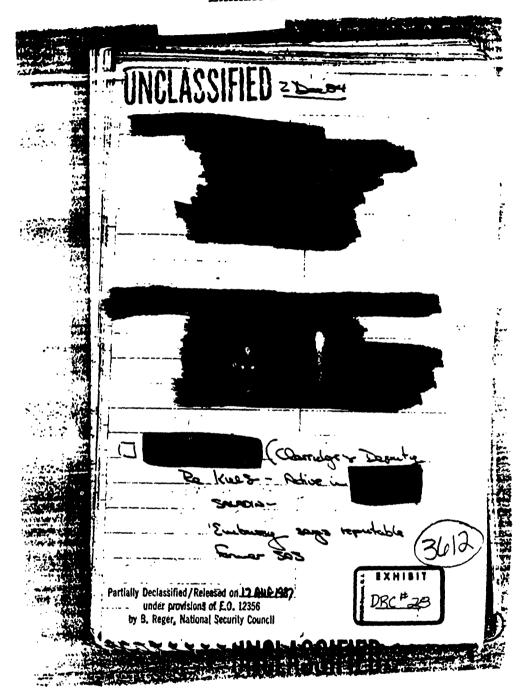
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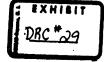
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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE . .

N 16887

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Assistance for the Nicaraguan Resistance

December 4, 1984

In accord with prior understanding, I met on Wednesday, November 28, with Defense Attache, Embassy of the Gaston Sigur arranged the luncheon meeting at the Cosmos Club and was present throughout.

As agreed, I explained to our purpose in the meeting was to clarify questions which had been raised in Canada regarding an arms transaction destined that an intermediary had advised that a paparently made a decision not to proceed with the Canadian-originated arms sale.

This offer of purchase included 10 SA-7 missile launchers 30 missiles, 1 training unit, and 10 tracking units.

professed to be unaware of the Canadian transaction.

I advised him that the purchase was not really intended for use by but rather for the Nicaraguan Resistance Forces. Further, the intermediary had indicated that the problem appeared to be the number military officers who are graduates of the As a consequence of the apparent reluctance to proceed with the sale showing end user certificate, the Canadian arms dealer is preparing to re-initiate discussions for a similar delivery was advised that the FDN would prefer to have the delivery as soon as possible, since the Soviet HIND-D helicopters were being assembled as we spoke.

was further advised that Adolfo Calero, the Head of the FDM, was willing to commit to a recognition once the Resistance Forces had succeeded. Indicated that he understood the message and would confer with the He observed, for the gecord, that refused to become involved, in any way, in the internal affairs of another country. I indicated that we fully appreciated this position and noted that it was too bad that the Soviets, Bulgarians, and East Germans involved in Nicaragua did not feel the same way.

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Later that afternoon, MGEN Jack Singlaub (U.S. Army, Retired) visited to advise of two meetings he had held early in the day regarding support for the Resistance. Singlaub passed on the following points:

Meeting with

N 16333

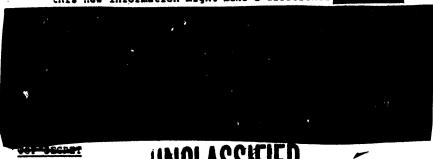
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- The FDN is in urgent need of anti-aircraft weapons and other crew-served weapons ammunition (particularly 60 and 81mm mortar rounds). Units in the field are also in need of large quantities of boots and clothing since the number of ralliers has exceeded expectations by 2,000.
- -- The Resistance Forces are also in urgent need of expertise in maritime operations.
- The USG is unaware of the Singlaub mission and he is making this reguest based on his long friendship.

 Because of the law restricting USG involvement, no USG orficial can solicit on behalf the Resistance Forces.
- -- If like to help, Singlaub can arrange a meeting with Adolfo Calero. If it is necessary for a USG official to verify Calero's bona fides, this can be arranged.

Meeting with

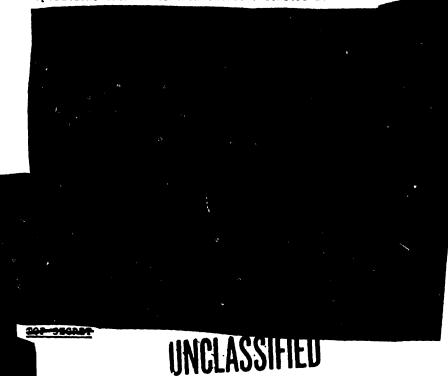
- -- By agreement with Calero, Singlaub advised since had turned down the earlier FDN request for assistance movement had approached
- -- The Resistance still is in reed of financial support, munitions, and training assistance.
- this was a "considerably different situation" than that which he had been aware of earlier. While not committing to support, he noted to Singlaub that this new information might make a difference

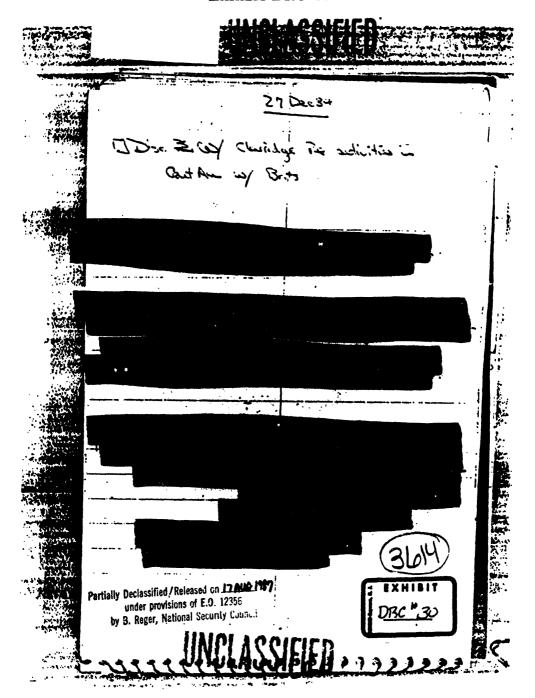


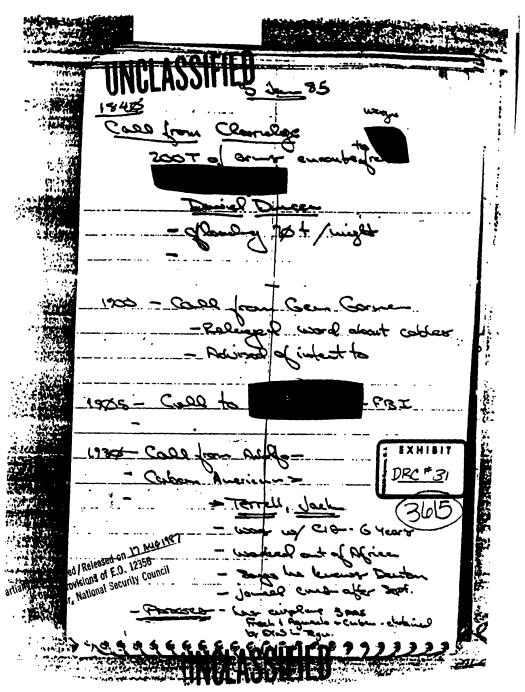
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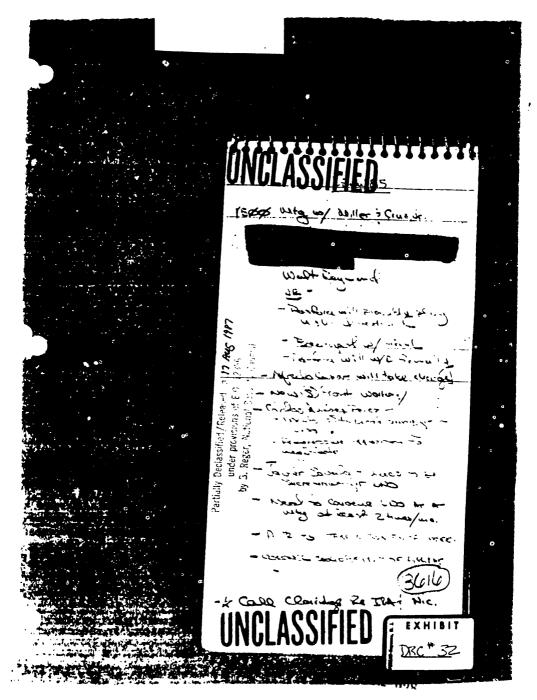
This weekend, at the request of Sec. John Lehman, I met with the David Walker, a former British SAS officer who now heads two companies (KMS and SALADIN) which provide professional security services to foreign governments. Walker had been approached several months ago, prior to initiating the current financial arrangement for the FDN. In addition to the security services provided by KMS, this offshore (Jersey Islands) company also has professional military "trainers" available. Walker suggested that he would be interested in establishing an arrangement with that he would be interested in establishing an arrangement with the FDN for certain special operations expertise aimed particularly at destroying HIND helicopters. Walker quite accurately points out that the helicopters are more easily destroyed on the ground than in the air.

Unless otherwise directed, Walker will be introduced to Calero and efforts will be made to defray the cost of Walker's operations from other than Calero's limited assets.









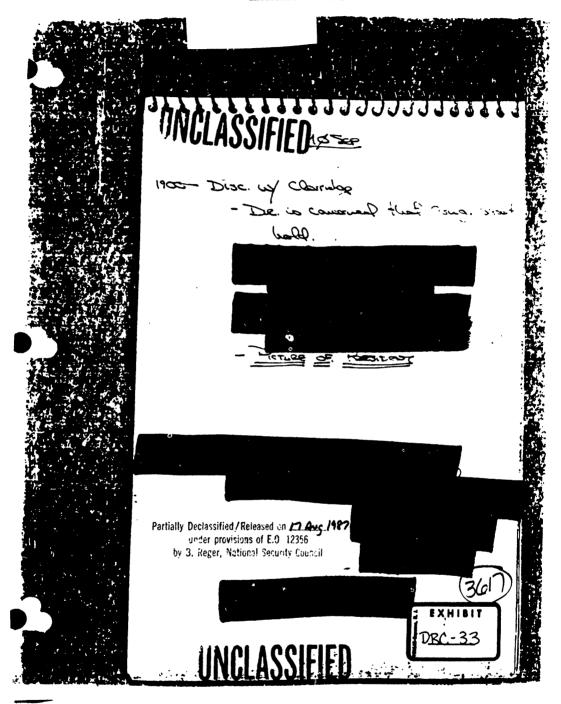
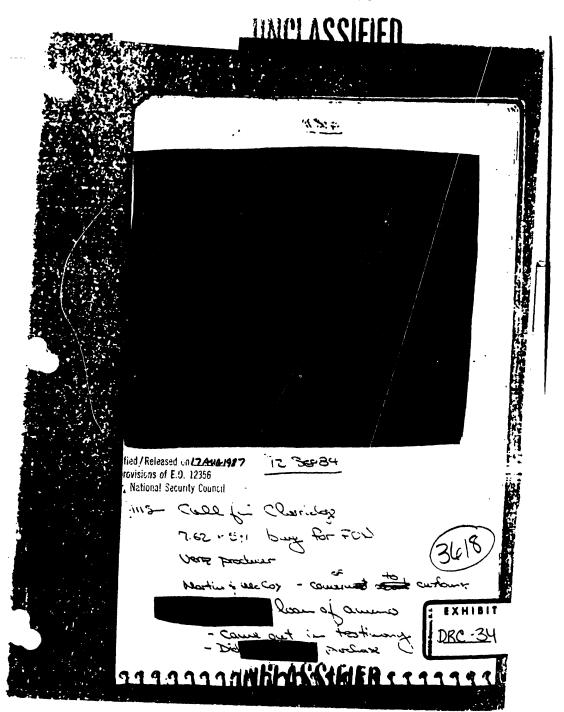
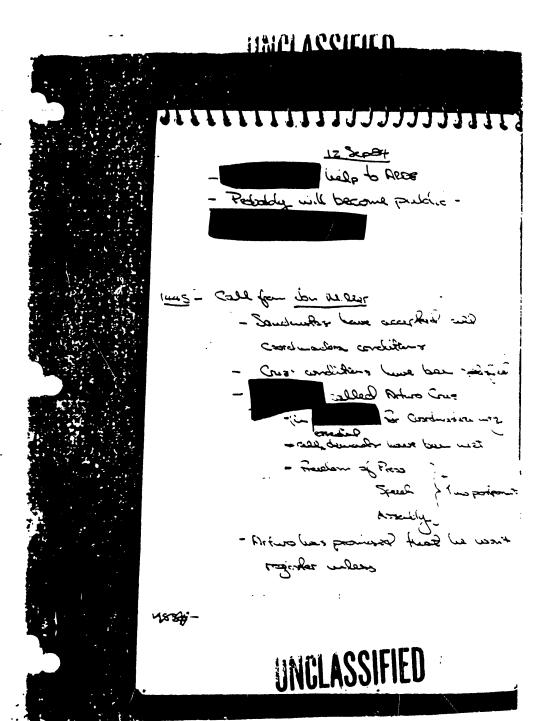
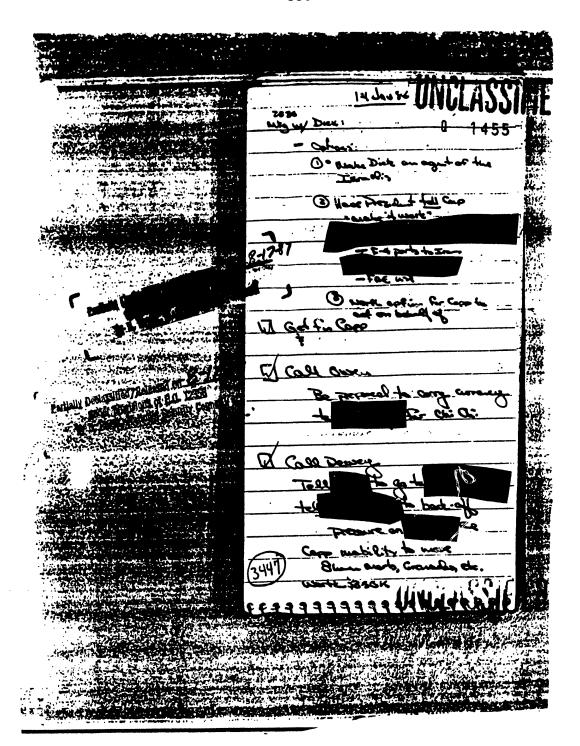


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August 5, 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT:

Operations Sub-Group (OSG) Terrorist Incident Working Group (TING) Meeting

The OSG met on Tuesday, August 5, from 1:30-2:45 p.m. with LTCOL Ollie North, Ambassador Bob Oakley, Richard Armitage, LTGEN John Moellering, Charlie Allen, Dewey Clarridge, Buck Revell, and Craig Coy attending. The following topics were discussed:

Hostages: There was a lively discussion on the next steps to take on the remaining hostages. The discussion touched on the possibility of Ruwaiti releasing the Da'wa seventeen and the conditions that would lead to that action

Revell raised the concern that we may be acting inconsistently with the President's policy of no negotiation and that it would not be in our best interest.

Armitage questioned what our policy should be and whether we should bargain for the hostages.

Moellering asked whether the President felt pressure to get the hostages. North responded that he has a personal sense of obligation and that the President had instructed North to get them out.

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JASECRENFIED : COSOS

NOTE Charlie
FRÖN: Joann
SUBJECT: Joanne Call

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1. Micheal Ledeen called to speak to you this morning, with what he termed a "Flash" for you "to pass to Dewey". I explained you were out of town until Tues, night, but I was your chief of staff - could I help? He hesitated for some long moments, then said no, he'd get the message to Dewey another way.

2. Dewey is on TDY all week, so comprisingly Ledeen called back about an hour later ("This tike, again"), wanting me to pass a message to Dewey message was as follows:

today at 1945 (local time) of the will be having dinner in Frankfurt at least two other can who arrived there yesters to of these guys is

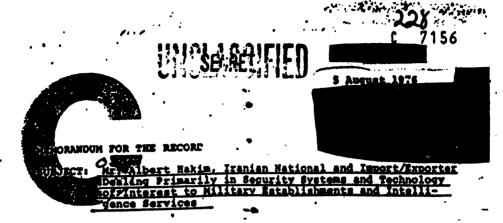
the other one is. There may be more at the dinner, but there will be at least these two."

3. I went down to EUR and talked to the Dep. Unior, who said Dewey was handling everything involved with this with the So I called the Descoppical officer.

4. It took a while to get back to me, but when he did, he seemed a DIE Confused. He did not know when he but said he would find out and handle all this with We agreed that we/he would have to move fast, because by the we were down to a window of only a couple of hours. I'll to to make the work to see what—if anything—occulred.

3-17-3 mg

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had collected numerous references to Mr. Albert makin, born 1936 in Tehran, Iran, which indicated that this gentleman was an influential factor in the export of American open market technology to countries like Iran and Egypt.

data which was obtained in the May to August 1976 time frame can be outlined as follows:

a. Educational Bickground: Mr. Hakim is a 1958 graduate with a BSEE degree from California Polytech. Mr. Hakim considers himself a specialist in electronics, particularly insofar as this area of technology relates to the problems of military establishments and intelligence services.

b. Marital Status: -Mr. Hakim is married and has two children. The children attend school in Switzerland.

c. Residence: Mr. Hakim resides officially in Gex, France, but he also maintains a residence in Tehran, Iran. In addition, he is a frequent visitor 2d the home offices of Stanford Technology Corporation, 310 Logue Avenue, Mountain View, California 94040 Clim Eddition Mr. Hakim spends a lot of time in Geneva, Swiffitland.

d. Commercial Structure: Mr. Hakits is involved in a number of commercial enterprises. In discuritons which deal with potential exports from the U.S. to Iran the represents himself as the President of Multicorp International, Itd., 130 Soraya Avenue, Tenran, Iran 19367

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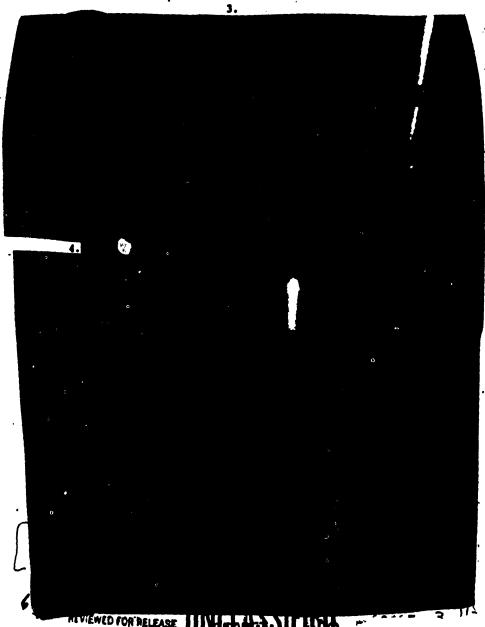
other conversations he indicates that he is the European representative for the Stanford Technology Corporation with a Bailing address of P.O. Box 52, 1211 Geneva, 24 Switzerland.

e. Type of Business: Mr. Hakim has let it be known that helis/currently in the process of selling the anjet000 curity System of the Stanford Technology Corporation to Iran. This is an integrated security system which deals with communications surveillance, mobile direction finding and telephone monitoring.

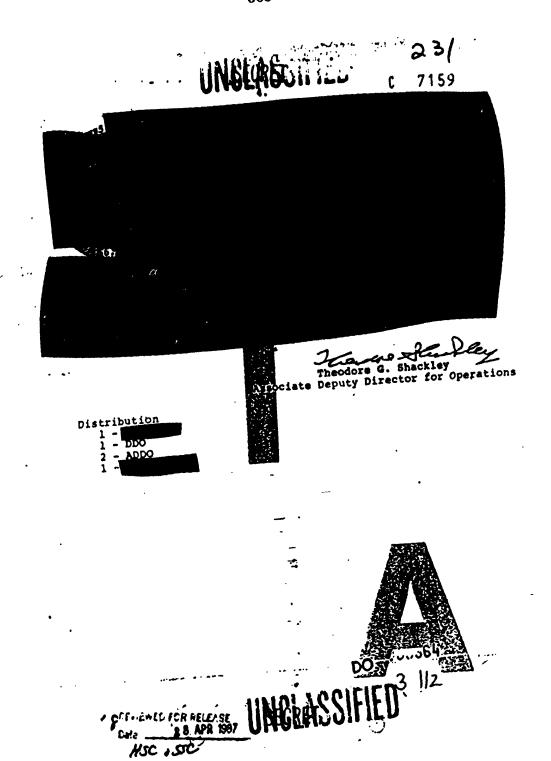
Mr. Hakim is quite amtious to play a pivotal role in the Iranian purchase of American technology. As a result, Mr. Hakim is casting about for contacts in the U.S. Government with whom he can find a mutuality of interest concerning Iranian attempts to procure hardware in the U.S.

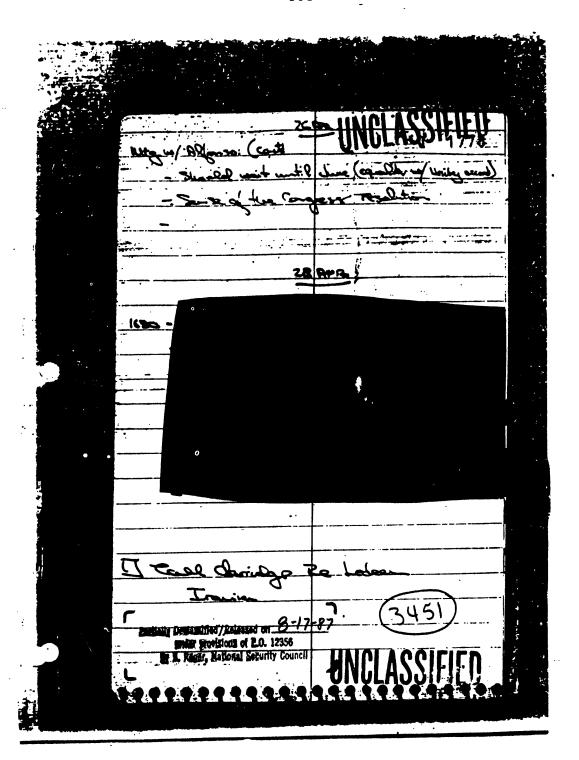
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November 7, 1984

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EYES ONLY

ACTION

MEHORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLAME

N 6914

FROM:

OLIVER L. MORTE

SUBJECT:

Clarifying Who Said What to Whom

ADM Poindexter indicates that the Director called you expressing concern that I had discussed with a Mr. Myers: Calero, MIGs, dollars, etc. The following chronology may be helpful in clarifying the situation.

Monday, November 5 (p.m.). Calero called from Miami, using appropriate one-time-pad, expressing grave concern about delivery of HIND-D helicopters at El Bluff. He was very distressed that the Agency had not forewarned the FDM of the delivery and that by the time he learned of it from his own assets, it was too late to position forces in an effort to interdict/destroy the helicopters. It was obvious that Calero was well aware of the threat the MI-24's pose to his forces in the field. Calero indicated that he was undertaking plans to "take-out" the EIMDs and asked that he be given all possible information on the location of the helicopters. I told him I would try to get the information to him.

Later this same evening, Lamilled Sob Vichers (NIO for Latin America) and GEN Paul Gorman and asked themselve all we had on the location of the EURO-D's.

Tuesday, November 6 (a.m.).

Subsequent to this call, I called Calero, again using appropriate code, and advised that the NIMDs had been moved

and could be provide any NUMINT assets on-scene. At this point Calero suggested that he come to Washington to meet with me frew hours prior to departing on Wednesday (Nov 7) for Teguc' I agreed to meet Calero here in Washington later in the afternoon.

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W. B. Both, Balance of Ed. 1235

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EYES ONLY

N 6915

Tuesday, November 6 (p.m.). the new Central American Task Force (CATF) Chief (who has recently replaced called to provide additional information During the course of his call, he indicated that Calero was coming to Washington unexpectedly. I told that Calero would be meeting with me and invited him to sit in. We discussed the matter and agreed that would meet separately with Calero in view of the Agency's determination that Section 8066 of the CR forebade the Agency from providing any information or assistance

Calero and I met privately mid-afternoon. During the meeting, Calero advised me that he had undertaken a plan to "borrow" a T-33, which would be used to strike the location where the HINDs were being assembled. He indicated that the T-33 would be painted with Sandinista Air Force markings and that the aircraft would probably have to land at on its return leg. Calero asked for detailed information on the location of the HIMDs and the Sandinista anti-air defenses. We also discussed longer-range planning for a Calero-Cruz coalition and the requirements for military cooperation with the MISURA in the seizure of Puerto Cabezas.

The meeting with Calero was terminated by the 5:00 p.m. CPPG and Calero returned to Hiami on a 6:30 p.m. flight. After the CPPG, I again called and asked for any further updates on the HIMDs and new info on the MIG's. Indicated that he was unable to meet with Calero on this trip due to the short lead time in notice of his arrival.

then asked if I was aware of a tasking to the NIO for an assessment of the Resistance capabilities. I told him that I was and that this was a fall out of the CPPG. I noted concern that State was of the opinion that the Resistance had become largely ineffective since our funding had run out in May 1984. It is shared my assessment that quite the opposite was true and that the Resistance obviously had considerable outside support. I asked if he was aware of the source of the Resistance funding. He told me no, that CIA had been trying to determine this, but that it was obviously substantial. I told that it was important that the SMIE reflect the fact that there was substantial outside support which had continued for some months and showed no signs of abating. It is agreed that this was the case. I asked him if the dollar amounts could be quantified.

The responded that they were spending at least \$1 million per month. I told that the SMIE should include this estimate.

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EYES ON

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EYES ONLY

N 6916

During this discussion, I apprised of Calero's plan to "berrow" of T-33 for an attack on the HIMDS. The agreed with me that this was a high-risk operation, but that there did not seem to be any real alternative if the FDN were to survive. At the conclusion of our discussion, we briefly reviewed the prospects for a liberation government in which Cruz and Calero would share authority. The and I specifically agreed that our discussion would not be shared.

Wednesday, Movember 7. GEN Paul Gorman called at 1200 to relay new information on collection efforts for MIGs and the HIND aircraft.

At 1300 Calero called from Tegucigalpa again, using appropriate codes, and requested any available information on the HIMDs and anti-air defenses.

He indicated that he had tasked one of his column leaders to insert a man into cobserve Calero advised that he would dispatch his pilot to to conserve the column leaders to insert a man into cobserve the column leaders to insert a man into cobserve the column leaders to insert a man into conserve the column leaders to insert a man into column leade

At 1330 VADM Moreau confirmed requests we had made and the modifications

At 1345 table to report additional Monduran airspace incursions by Sandinista helicopters in the vicinity of Cerro la mole (southwest of Tegucigalpa). I again noted the need for additional intelligence on the HIMDs and that Calero was moving to implement the T-33 option.

Thursday, November 8. At 1445 ADM Noreau delivered showing anti-aircraft defenses in the vicinity of Sandino

At no time did I discuss with Financial arrangements for the FDN. At no time did I indicate that Calero was attempting to attack the MIGs. I specifically told that Calero was attempting to collect information on the MIGs. and would pass this information to a CIA agent was available.

RECOMMENDATION

That you aut	thorize me	to	continue	as p	lanned	with	Calero.
--------------	------------	----	----------	------	--------	------	---------

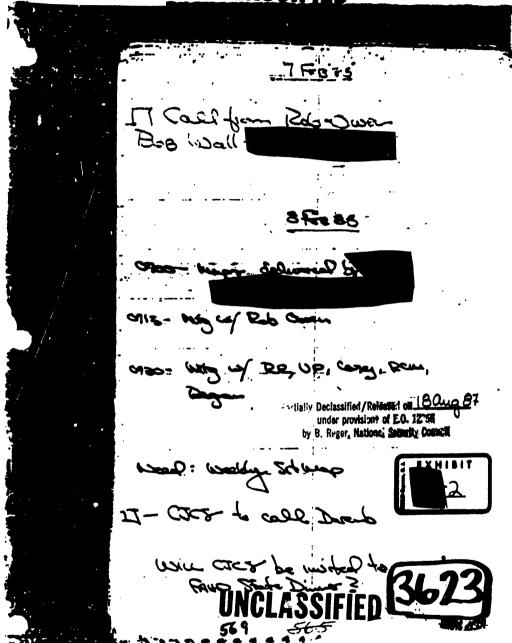
ybbroae	 Disapprove

. EYES ONL"

UNCERSOFFED EYES

EXHIBIT C/CATF-2

UNCLASSIFIED



UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

SYSTEM IV NSC/ICS-402003 Re-do

February 6, 1985

N 6917

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM:

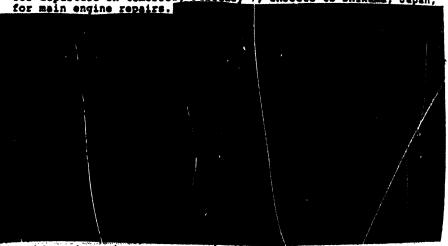
OLIVER L. NORTH

SUBJECT:

Micaraguan Arms Shipments



The Micaraguan merchant ship, MOMINBO, is now in port at Taichung, Taiwan, where it is unloading cargo. It is estimated for departure on tomorrow, February 7, enroute to Shikama, Japan, for main engine repairs.



At this point, there appear to be three options:

- -- The shipment could be seized and the weapons delivered to the FDM;
- -- the ship could be sunk; or
- -- the shipment and the parties involved therein could be made public as a means of preventing the delivery.

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UNCLASSIFIED



binder provisions of E.O. 12756 V. B. Rieder, Marinori, Saferth, Countil

Partially Declassified / Release - on LD

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N 6918

There is no apparent armed security detail aboard the MONIMBO, despite the sensitive nature of her cargo.

If asked, Calero would be willing to finance the operation. He does not, however, have sufficient numbers of trained maritime special operations personnel or a method of delivery for seizing the ship on the high seas.

If such an operation were undertaken, it would be best to seize the vessel as it cleared the East China Sea enroute to Nicaragua's Pacific port at Corinto. Arrangements would have to be made for removal of the cargo for further transfer to the FDN, since it is unlikely that any of the other Central American states would allow MONIMBO to enter their harbors once she had been pirated.

If time does not permit a special operation to be launched, Calero can quickly be provided with the maritime assets required to sink the vessel before it can reach port at Corinto. He is in contact with maritime operations experts and purveyors of material necessary to conduct such an operation.

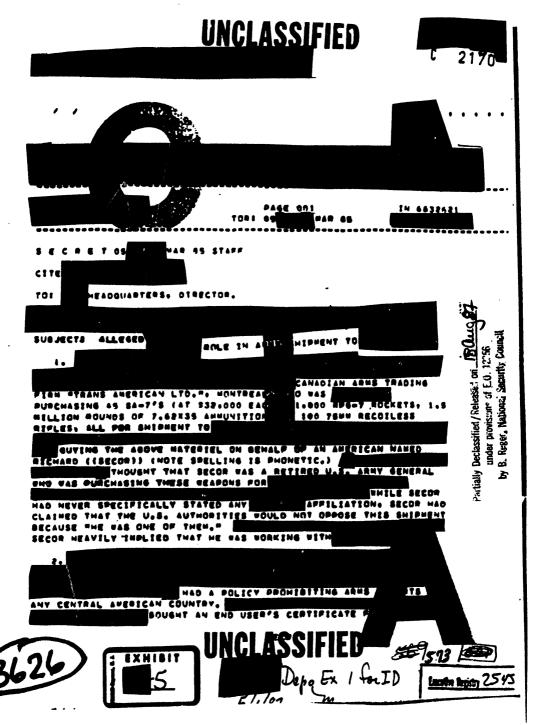
RECOMMENDATION

That you authorise Calero to be provided with the information on MONIMBO and approached on the matter of seizing or sinking the ship.

	• Disapprove	
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Document Exhibit 1-4 Note 15 Feb 85

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TO SENTER THE PROM THE BAHANAS OR CAYMAN ISLANDS.

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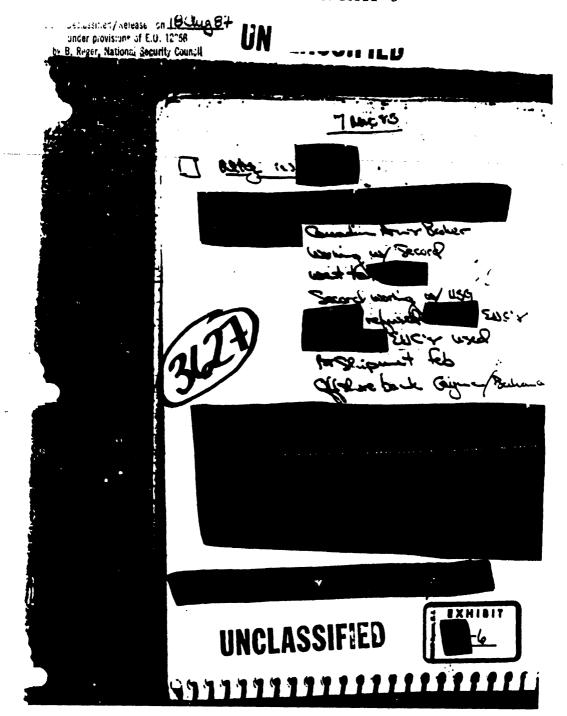
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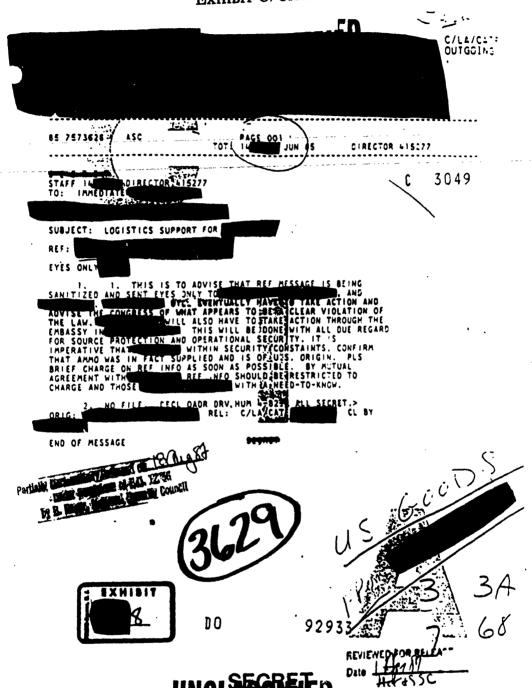
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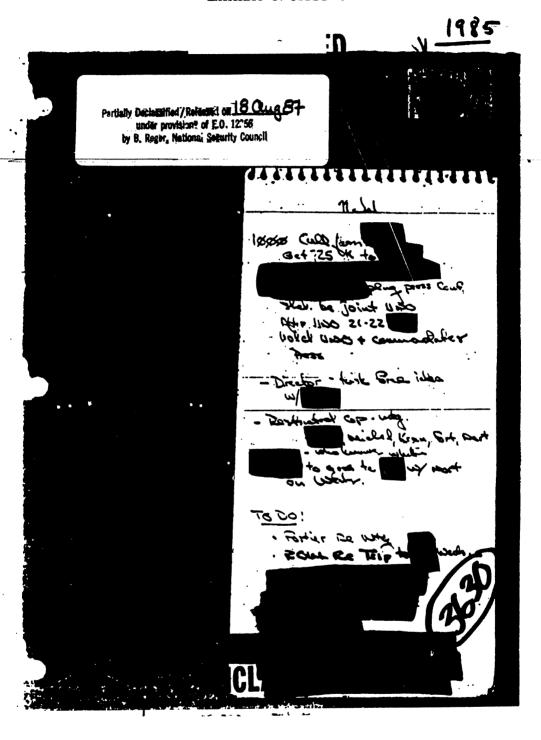


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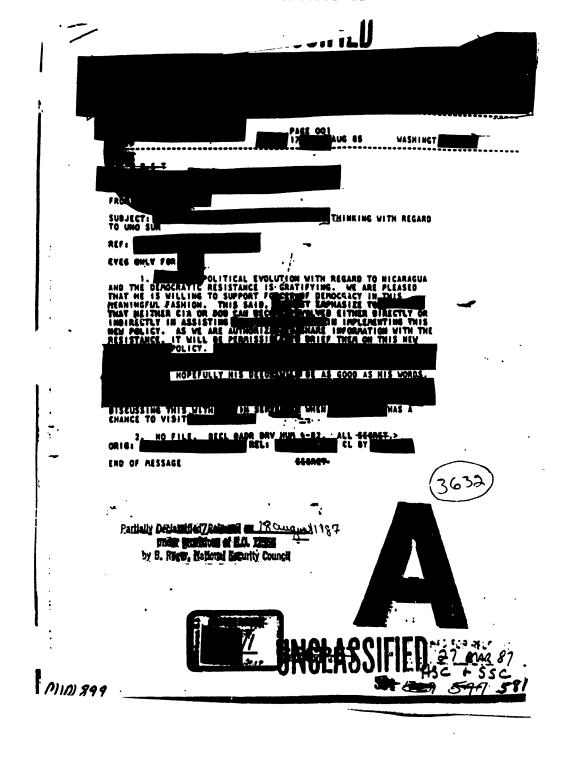
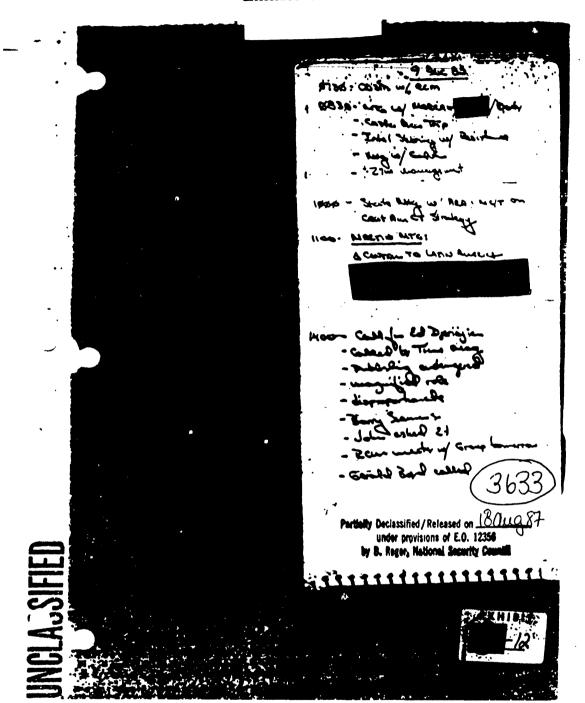
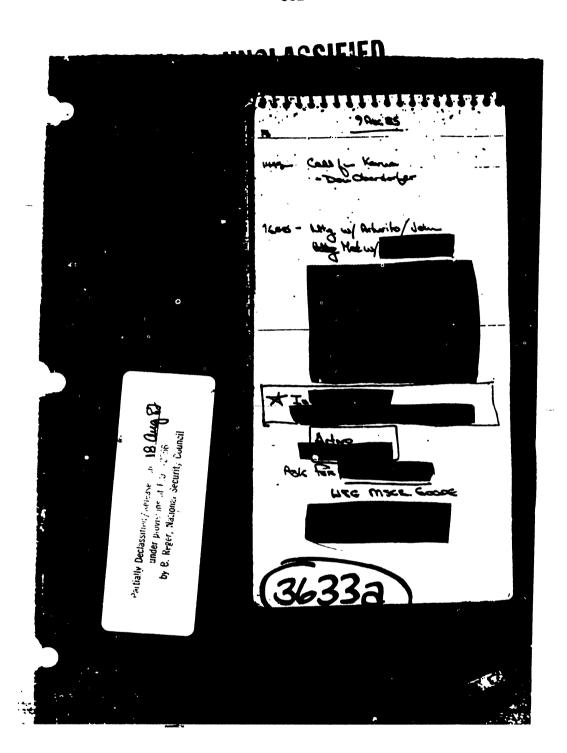


Exhibit C/CATF-12





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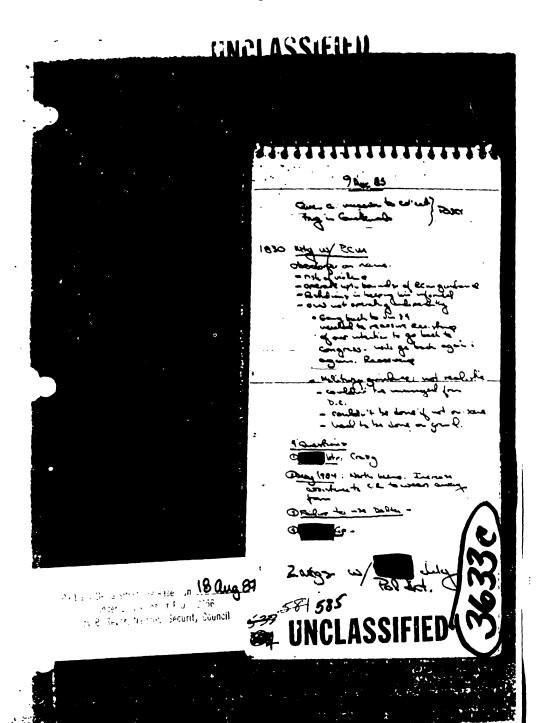


Exhibit C/CATF-13

UNCLASSIFIED Partially Declaration / Reference on 18 Qua 87

under provisions of E.O. 12:56 by B. Reger, National Security Council

TO:

BG: FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

August 25, 1985

FROM:

SUBJECT: August 19, 1985 Trip

Itinerary: August 19 - Washington-Hiami

20 - Miami

21 -New Orleans

23 - New Orleans-Washington



Meeting with Ben and Johnny

This took place in Ben's office and in attendence were the ded Johnny. Very cordial meeting with the emphasis on the best place to the form. Two sites were discussed, but the decision was made to use just one, as there would be less chance of discovery.

The area decided on is on the west coast,

Am presently waiting for the name of the American so information on him can be found out and he can be approached by a company wishing to rent the land for a year with the option to buy. A guess is the cost will run between \$10,000 and \$20,000 for a year.

The cover for the operation is a company, owned by a few "crazy" gringos, wanting to lease the land for agricultural experimentation and for running cattle. A company is in the process of being formed. It might be a good ides to have it be a Panamanian Company with bearer shares, this way no names appear as owners. The gringos will own two planes, registered to the company and duely registered in the country in question. Cattle will be purchased as will some farming equipment and some land slowed. and some land plowed.

The main house, will be vacated and used by the Gringos. It will be possible to use third country nationals, although this was not extensively discussed. will provide a cook, the peones to work the farm, and security.

A number of improvements will need to be made to the property. They Include:

- Building so sirstrip next to the main house
- Putting in gas storage tanks by the house and a hangar and maintenance shed Building a road usable by 4 wheel drive to the 2nd site, about 10,000 meters
- Leveling and grading a second strip, about 800 meters Drilling a well by this site Building storage facilities Clearing a road to the beach

Once the new strip is completed it will be designated a military sone and will be guarded to the cover is it will be being used for mortar and rifle practice. There are no houses or farms near-by and-the strip is right off the water and in a draw between two ridge lines, so it is well out of sight.

IINUTTGGIEIEU

August 25, 1985 Page 2

Initial costs for the project include:

- Construction costs
- Construction costs
 Purchase of at least two vehicles, both 4 wheel drive, a truck and pickup
 Cost of land, cattle and farming equipment
 Establishing the company, lawyers and registration costs
 Costs; should not be too high
 Salaries for gringos
 Air ops (Spanish speaking)
 2 pilots
 Mechanic

- - Mechanic - Loadmaster/packer/rigger
 - Civil engineer to oversee construction of the strips
- Registration of two planes in country
- Fuel

Reguirements in the States for the project:

- Form company
- Off shore bank account
- Contact and negotiate with present owner
- Budget project
- · Contract personnel .

Next trip to the country should be with a civil engineer and air ops officer to begin the project with site survey, follow-up meeting with transfer of the property, establish company, begin construction.

The time table will depend on how quick the company is formed and personnel contracted.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the move of forces away from the border area. They want this done as soon as possible. They might be willing to help facilitate the move by providing trucks to take the people to a jumping off point. Johnny was more in front them his boss. It was left that they would be kept informed.

They were concesned with a base reported to be some 10 to 15 klics inside. If it was still there this weekend it was to be raided.

It was a very positive meeting and they want to work with us, but there are obvious concerns. The biggest on both sides is how long the operation will remain covert.

BG - August 25, 1985 Page 3

Meeting with

On the evening of the 21st I met with the state of the st

The Move: On Friday a decision was supposed to be rendered as to how best to carry out moving the approximately people and some supplies. The only two viable options are either:



Once a plan is finalized it will take a period of time to set up the logistics. Earliest possible time for a jump off is probably at least10 to 14 days. Even then it is pushing it the way these people operate.

There is resistance against the move, especially by and his staff. They will drag their feet as long as possible. They complain they don't know the aream

If they go they will have to be supplied with the following:

This could be done by air out of

Meeting with Pastora wants to join him and work with Says the Gringos are out to screw thus he should protect himself and his people and join He reminded if he goes inside he goes into his territory.

believes Pastora is finished. His people in the field only talk to him on the radio in hopes he will beable to supply them with ammo or whatever.

Human Rights Violation: The internal investigation shows the did order the torture and the ultimate execution. It was decided to should decide what punishment he deserves and was supposed to decide by Friday. He gave indications if the forced out of the movement he may choose to resign. If this is the case, the whole movement may be better off. If the decides on this course of action, it was suggested to the movement may be and the may choose to resign. If the case is the case is the suggested to the movement may be better off. If the decides on this course of action, it was suggested to the movement may be better off. If the decides on this course of action it was suggested to the movement may be better off. If the decide of the movement may be better off. If the decide of the movement may be better off. If the decide of the movement may be better off. If the decide of the movement may be better off. If the decide of the movement may be better off. If the decide of the movement may be better off. If the movement ma

It is thought the organization may be receiving as much as \$50,000 a month for expenses and travel; most probably from INCLACCIFIC.

August 25, 1985 Page 4

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Personal Feelings: To quote equivalency in the Triple A. "I'm tired of the lack of

Major things he is concerned about include:

He has not received his \$30,000 for August . Hade it very clear he will not accept anymore money from Calero.

Meeting with

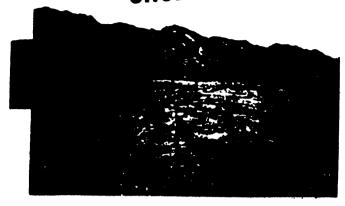
I flew to New Orleans and spent about 6 hours with on Thursday night. I brought him as up to date as possible and answered his questions as best as possible.

His concerns were what was going to be the CR's stand, would his financial situation be taken care of, and deep down he was subtly asking if he had what it will take, or was he walking into a no-win situation. I think this is his biggest concern; that is why I promised he would have a gringo by his side to advise him and provide him with as much help as possible.

If he decides, he would like someone to call or visit his boss to explain the situation as he believes he owes him a great deal, including an explanation.

His decision is due on Monday, August 26.

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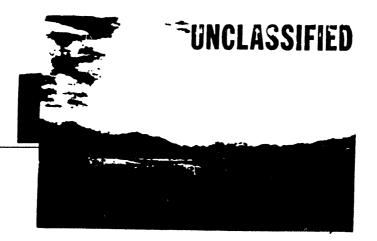








CHCIASSIEIE,







UNULASSIFIED

Sestember 20, 1985

Partially Declassified/Release : on 1804487 under provisions of E.O. 12056 by B. Reger, Nations: Security Council

Dear Felix:

AFTER READING THIS LETTER PLEASE DESTROY IT. You may keep the photographs.

within the next 15 days, the Unified Nicaraguan Oppositions:(UNO)/Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) air arm will commence operations with two new types of aircraft: the C-7, CARIBOU and the M-740, MAULE STOL (see enclosures). These aircraft will be the M-740 air drop/serial resupply; to units inside Nicaragua.

Two contract C-7s are scheduled to arrive in on or about October 10. Initially the aircraft will be flown by U.S. citizens who are employees of the firm contracted to provide delivery services for the FDN. It is intended that these aircraft will operate primarily at night, performing paradrops to units deep inside. Nicaraguan aircrews will be trained to fly these missions as soon as possible.

The resistance has also purchased a number of new MAULE aircraft shown in the enclosed photograph. These STOL a/c will be used for day and hight short-haul missions to include MEDEVAC and aerial resupply. Each aircraft comes with a spare parts package and a maintenance line has been established. Two aircraft have and a maintenance line has been established. Two aircraft have already been delivered. K)re will follow. All will be flown by already provided the statement of the sta

Eventually both types of sircraft will also operate in support of the little front from fields or Neither from have adequate sites for maintaining these aircraft. The only location which provides sufficient OPSEC, ramp space and occasional hangar time for servicing these aircraft is at

Since this is a completely compartmented operation, being handled by the resistance, you are the only person in the area was can set-up the servicing of these aircraft with both have a high regard for you hand the servicing of these servicing of the ser and you may use my name privately with either of them but no others. You must not advise you must also who is not working with our people.

Would you, therefore, a the following proposal: approach and

Service space for one C-7 in a one day a week basis. A representative of the C-7 contractor will ensure that all parts and mainterince items are delivered to FDN service technicians (three) as needed. No maintenance will be required maintenance will be required.





-- Service space for occassional MAULE maintenance with parts and supplies handled the same as above. Again, no Standard parts or labor will be required.

This plan requires only discrete use of the space and no use of FMS; HAF; and/or Agency funds, equipment, d/or personnel. The contractor will guarantee discretion.

Please advise goonest as to a compact acceptance of this proposal. If the find agree, a representative of the maintenance contractor will arrive and seek you out. He will identify himself as coming from Mr. Green.

Warm regards, hope all is well with you. We hear nothing but good reports about your work. Keep it up. Vaya con Dios!

Mr. Felix Rodriguez 215 N.E. 114th Street North Miami, FL 33161



CARIBOU C-7

Manufacturers

Power Plant:

Crew:

Passengers:

Payload:

Cruising Speed:

T.O. Run: Landing Run:

Range:

Costs:

Dart recip

2 Pilots; loadmaster

37 Troops

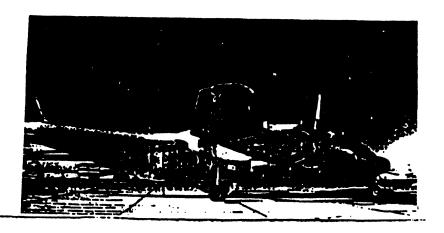
9,788 lbs.

150 kts (max.)

950 ft.

1,550 ft.

1,700 nm \$751./flt. hr.



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My Prep Notes Progress Report

Urgent medical assestance - FDN 7 KISAN

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Role of AID.

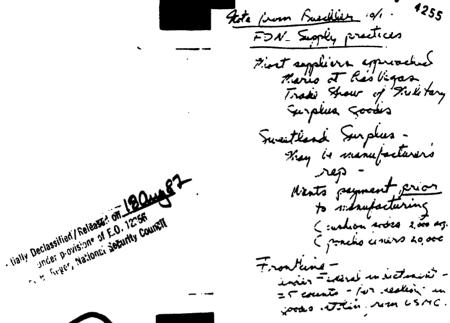
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October 1, 1985 \$255

Subject: Summary of relegram on NHAO, succently in deaft in Embassy

Note: On October 1, Duenting talted by secure phone with they wished to read the text of an empassy solegish prepared after lengthy discussions among on the subject of NNAO's interface with following is a summary of the text, which they plan to have on the wire NIACT inmediate around \$100 pm Oct. 1

Summary of text

Enhassy urgently needs quidance on how to discuss NHAO with Unfortunately. Visit has raised more questions than provided answers.

It is essential that any material or funds for UNO/FON be provided to them outside

Major proplet at present is that local suppliers have extended to suppliers have of credit to FDM in food and clothing. Since suppliers have not yet been paid, they have stopped giving credit, and as a result, UNO/FDM troops supplied through are getting only one neal per day of beans and rice.

In Encassy view, quickest and most efficient way of resolving this problem is to pay off the suppliers so they will once again extend credit. Movever, will not allow this payment of suppliers to take place in (at least not by USG representatives).

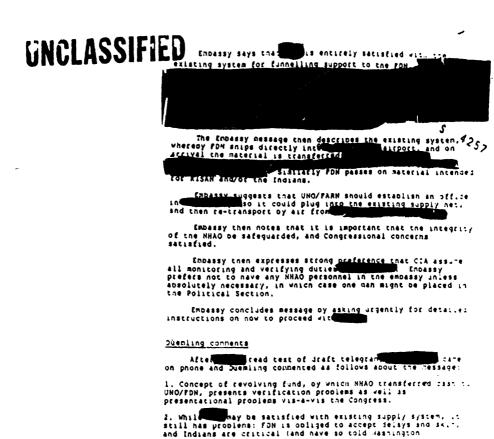
Disoursements must take place outside thinks this could easily be accomplished by NAKO establishing revolving bank account for UNO/FDM: NAKO would pay in, and replenish the account as receipts come in should not disoursements have been made. This system would also be compactive that the suppliers.

UNO/FDN should take place outside for example, in New Orleans.

Opridative / Raidard: On LE St. Council

re . . .





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constituental because they are doubly stimes

). Use of CIA as sole agent for monitoring and verification purposes is not acceptable because it would open HMAO to Congressional critics.

After further conversation with the service seemed to agree that certain modifications will agree, to will agree agre

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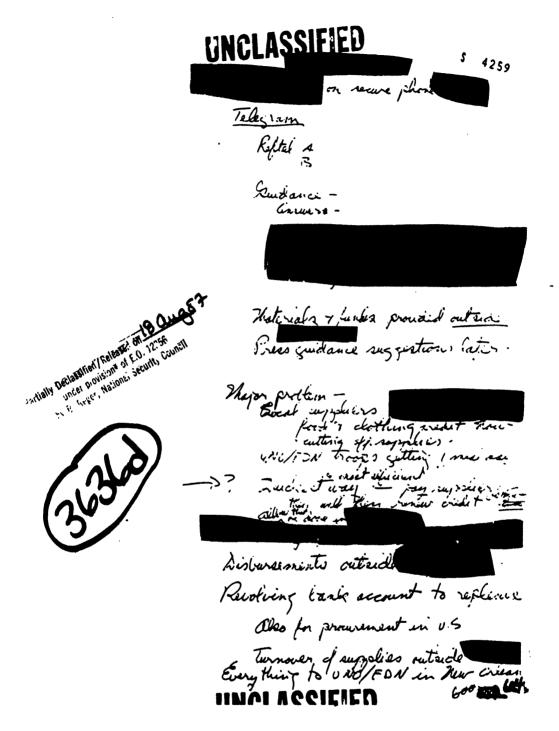
a. Most surpliers have States, de Jank accounts. It would be acceptable for NMAO to pay into these accounts is vay of acconnodating current UNO/FDM indebtedness. It now trying to get hanes of Danks and account numbers for each supplier, so we can nove rapidly to this enf. That will greatly relieve the current credit crunch that FDM is suffering. This arrangement would also obvious the need for a revolving fund.

b. greed that it might be possible for the Enossy to have one of two NAAO personnel on the facesy staff. But if to have one of two NAAO personnel on the facesy staff. But if so, which would want them assignment system, and they would have to serve as assignment system, and they would nave to serve as assignment system, and they would nave to serve as plausibly get out and around to do Emosssy work. In fact, they louid be serving NAAO needs, and if any time were left over, would be serving NAAO needs, and if any time were left over, any private citizens or temporary trouble-shooters visiting any private citizens or temporary trouble-shooters visiting any private citizens or temporary trouble-shooters visiting

Duesling urge to incorporate country also notes further options into the desage coming from the impassion of the draft to an inter-agency meeting at 5:30 pm oct. 1, and that the group would study the message in detail when it is received, and respond as quickly as possible.

RWDuemling 10/1/65

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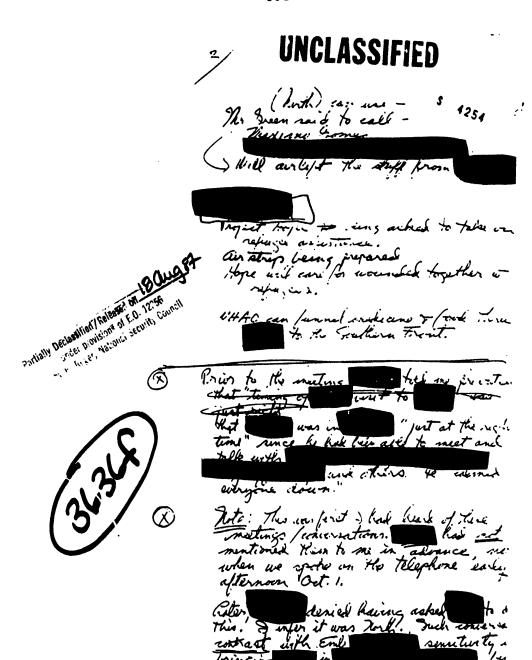
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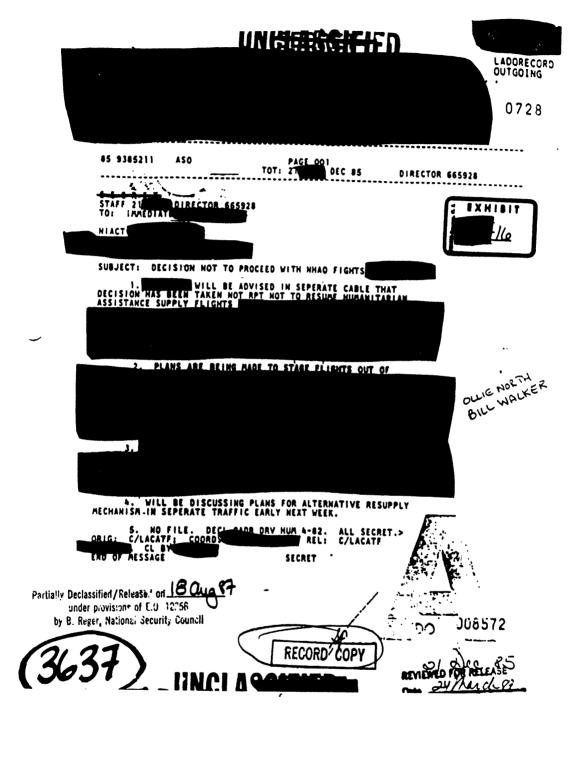
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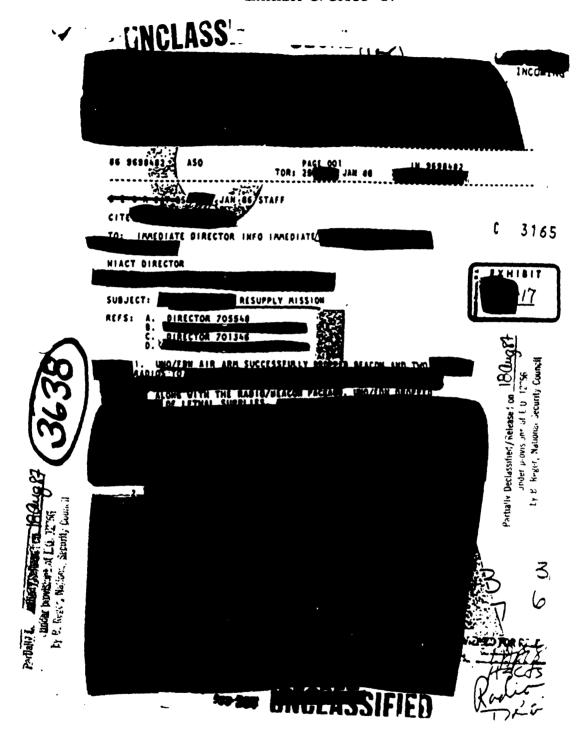


US military plane is the comb.

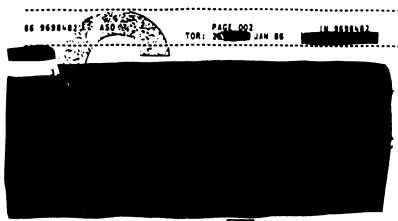
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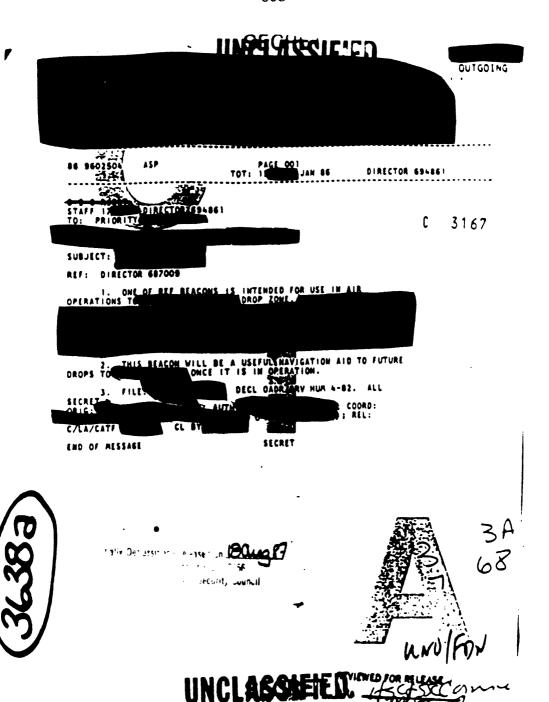
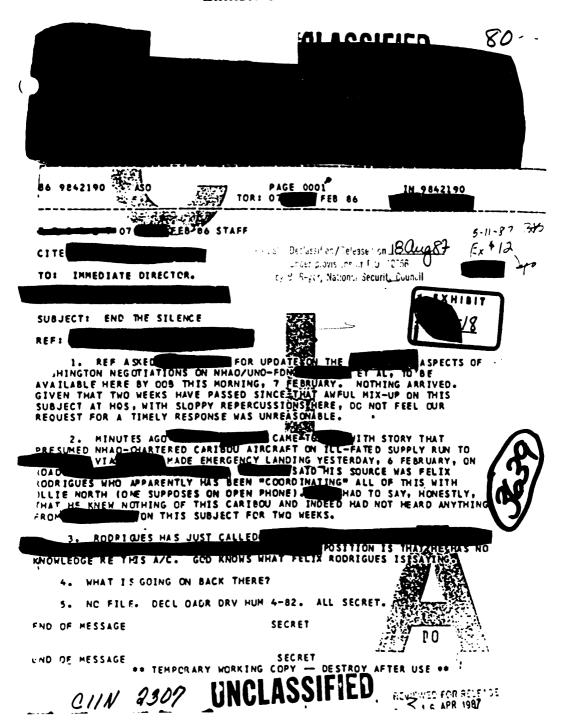
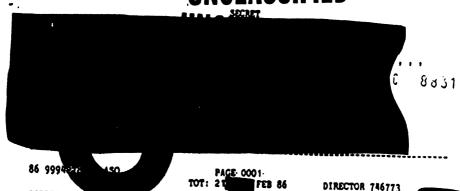


Exhibit C/CATF-18



JNCLASSIFIED



STAFF 2 TO: INCEDIATE DIRECTOR 746773

SUBJECT: STATUS OF MILAO L-100 RESUPPLE

REF: 8. DINDCTON 742090

1. REF A PARA 2 FLIGHT SCHEDULE 25 FEB. L-100 AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE AV AFTERNOON OF HONDAY 24 FEB. IT WILL P BE LOADED FOR A 25 FEB DEPARTURE TO FL ING SET UP FOR TUES & UNTIL THE TO NEW ORLEANS TO A PARA 2 SCHEDULE ON 25 FEB.

2. FOR PARA 6 REF A
REQUEST YOU COORDINATE CLEARANCES AND APPROVALS WITH UNO/FOM NO REF A PARA 6 B CARGO FOR LOADING CIRCA 1200 HRS

3. REF B PARA 4 MHAO RESTRICTIONS ON 10 PER CENT LETHAL MATERIEL DOES NOT PRESENT A BLAMEST AUTHORITY TO SMIP 10 PERCENT LETHAL MATERIEL: ON MHAO PLIGHTS. MORNALLY THE DC-6 WHICH IS CONTRACTED FOR BY UNO/FDM OR THE C-47 WHICH IS OWNED BY UNO/FDM WILL HAVE TO BE USED FOR MOVEMENT OF LETHAL MATERIELS BY AIR. AS STATED IN REF B PARA 4 TEM PERCENT LETHAL CAN BE JUSTIFIED BY MHAO IF IT IS IMPRACTICAL OR DAMGEROUS TO SHIP LETHAL MATERIEL BY OTHER MEANS. IF AMTICIPATES MOVING LETHAL MATERIEL VIA MHAO CONTRACT AIRCIAFT, PRIOR APPROVAL FROM MHAO WILL HAVE TO BE OBTAINED.

IN VIEW OF WHAO'S STROMG FEELINGS ON CARRYING LETHAL MATERIEL UNLESS ABSOLUTELY MECESSARY DO NOT WISH TO LOAD TO

HATERIEL UNLESS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY DO NOT VISH TO LOAD 10 PERCENT LETHAL ON 25 FEB L-100 FLIGHT

4. PER REF A PARA 3 THE ABOVE APPLIES TO WHAO C-T FLIGHTS. THE C-7 WILL INITIALLY MAYE CREWS. THE

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HOWEV. THE PRESENT TIME WHAO CAN ONLY PAY FOR THE TRANS. // ION OF MON-LETHAL SUPPLIES. CHAO AGREES TO SOVE THE C-7 AIRCRAFT NOW AT SO CARRY OUT PARA 4 ABOVE TYPE HISSION. 6. UPON COMPLETION OF 25 FEB HISSION WHAO WILL USE L-100 TO MOVE SUPPLIES ON HAND AT NEW ORLEANS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES AT NELES ATROOK APPROVAL CAN BE OSTAINED TO ELIMINATE STOP EN ROUTS IT WILL OBVIOUSLY SAVE FLYING TIRE AND ELIMINATE ONE LANDING.) MEAO ESTIMATES 6 TO 8 L-100 TRIPS TO HOVE THESE SUPPLIES AND HOPEFULLY CAN MAKE ONE TRIP EVERY DAY OR EVERY OTHER DAY DEPENDED ON AIRCRAFT AND CREW AVAILABILITY. WILL CONTINUE THE SECOND FLIGHTS UNTIL ALL SUPPLIES ARE HOVED ARE HOVED 7. PILE: DECL OAT HUM 4-82: 'ALL ORIG: : AUTH COORD: CALL C/LA/CATE MESSAGE

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END OF MESSAGE

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REVIEWED FOR RELEASE DATE 18 MAY 1987

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Dutton 5/27/87

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Mr. FALLEX. Now, sir, was that mission carried out with the C-77

Mr. DUTTOM. Yes, it was, and it was successful.

Mr. Ballen. Now many missions in July and August, successful missions, were you able to conduct inside of Nicaragua to the southern forces? I take it you testified earlier that the southern force was your main concern in terms of getting armaments and supplies to them.

Mr. BUTTON. Yes, they were our primary concern. We continued to help the north on a regular basis mostly with the C-7s but our critical part of the operation was getting the southern force to be a viable force.

Mr. BALLEM. Now many successful operations were you able to conduct with southern forces in July and August, to your knowledge?

Mr. DUTTON. To my knowledge, we only had one.

Mr. BALLEN. Why was that?

Mr. DUTTON. Hell, why were we successful or why--

Mr. BALLEN. Why didn't you have more?

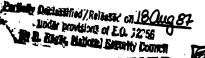
Mr. DUTTON. Our successful mission was a repeat of the C

7 mission.

Mr. Ballen. That was a refueling that again Colonel Nort

919 obtained parmission for?

Mr. DUTTON. That is correct. For the C-123 missions, we









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PAGE 42

921 flew a number of missions. We would make arrangements with to contact the force that we were to drop to, we would 923 set instructions back that they would have three bonfires, 924 in some cases they would even give us a pattern that they 925 were going to be laid out in, we had radio frequencies that 926 we were going to be able to talk to the ground force and if 927 we had to be a little off they could track us right over their heads. These were all conducted as night missions. 928

We would fly them--these, by the way, are long missions. 930 We are talking seven hour, six and seven hour missions--get down to the drop zone area, there would be no fires, they would fly all over the area trying to make radio contact. there would be no radio contact and it would have been rather wasteful just to throw the load out into a triple canopy jungle, so we brought the load home.

Mr. BALLEM. You mentioned earlier that you were looking for another C-123 siroraft and that you were having--the other C-123 aircraft involved was in an accident.

was that one of the reasons that you were having problems 939 delivering to the southern forces because of the disability 940 of the C-123 that you had?

Mr. DUTTOM. That was part of our problem. We had maintenance problems with the aircraft but when you have only that is going to be part of it.

Another part was we were unable to get weather information

UNCLASSIFIED NAME: NIR147000 1482 would be there and talk to us on the radio, if in fact we 1483 found the drop zone, and we were certain of it, we would 1484 make the drop on the zone, and inform the ground forces that 1485 the load was there for them to pick up. Once they called back to and said that, yes, in fact 1486 1487 they had found the lead, we would know that they knew where 1488 that drop some was, and we could continue to drop without 1489 ever coordinating with them., All we had to do was go in, make the drop, call 1490 1491 say, "There is another lead on that drop zone, where do you 1492 want the next lead?' Mr. Ballen. Why was this new system devised? 1493 Mr. DUTTOM. Because we had--since we were unable to mak 1494 1495 contact with the troops on the ground, they seemed to be 1496 having a very difficult time being able to tell exactly 1497 where they were, they would pass us coordinates, we would 1498 fly over the coordinates and they would say we are 10 miles 1499 to the south of them. Mr. BALLEN. These are the southern forces again? Mr. DUTTOM. Yes, it was. Hr. BRLISH. Now, did Colonel North approve this new 1503 method of air drops to the south? Mr. DUTTON. Yes, he did. 1504 Hr. Ballen. What were you air dropping at that time? 1505 Mr. DUTTON. Munitions, uniforms, medicine. 1506

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	helm an what were the needs of the various commandantes,
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1509	much what he wanted on any particular drop zone, and we
1510	would shape the loads accordingly.
1511	Mr. Ballen. Colonel DuttonMr. Chairman, now would be a
1512	appropriate time to take a recess.
1513	Chairman NAMILTON. The committees will take a 10-minute
1514	recess.
1515	[Recess.]
1516	Chairman HAKILTON. The committees will resume their
1517	sitting.
1518	Mr. Ballen, you may continue.
1519	Hr. Ballen. Thank you very much, Hr. Chairman.
1520	When you were last testifying, Colonel Dutton, you were
1521	referring to your meeting with Steele and the new system
1522	that you, North had approved for air dropping munitions to
1523	the contra forces in late August.
1524	Did this enable the number of air drops inside Nicaragua
1525	to increase by your organization?
1526	Mr. DUTTON. Starting on aboutwell, just before I went
1527	down, so starting in the beginning of September, we were
1528	able to refine this particular method of delivery, and in
1529	September, we became very successful as far as flying
1530	resupplies to the southern force.
	Mr. RILLEM. Did you, in fact, travel down in September?

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17461 RPTS STEIN

1747 DCMX GLASSNAP

1748 [11:00 a.m.]

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Mr. BALLEN. Colonel Button, what was the role of the CIA in your September operations?

Mr. DUTTON. I think in September -- I can't say that it wa 1753 that much different than at any time. was critical to 1754 us throughout the operation, and remained involved with 1755 us throughout the operation. At other times, we would try 1756 to enlist who was neighboring country. And he was not helpful sometimes.

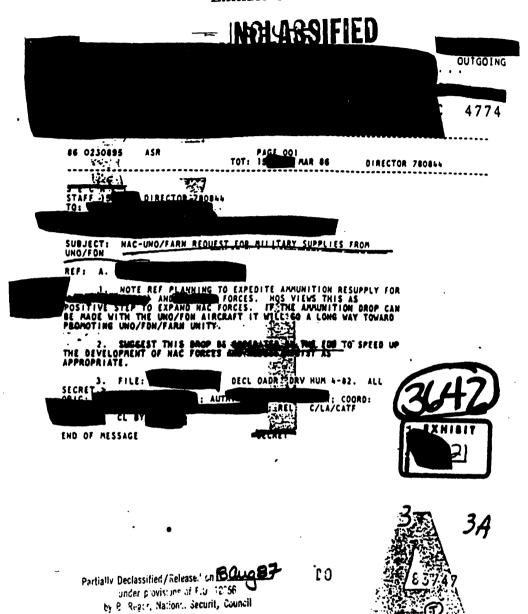
In September, he was more helpful to us than he had been 1758 before. We got a little more assistance from him as far as 1759 intelligence, but nothing of any great significance.

Mr. BALLEN. Let me ask you this question: Could your 1762 successful missions in mirdrops to the Southern Front in 1763 September, could those have been accomplished without 1764 assistance?

Hr. DUTTON. No way.

Hr. BALLEN. Now, sir, what was the purpose of your 1766 1767 increased mirdrops in September?

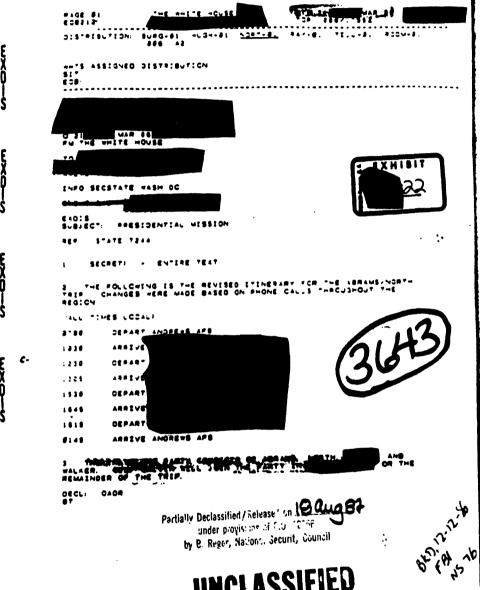
Mr. Burrox. I think the first--rather than a purpose, it was a result. The fact that we had finally found a way that 1770 we could do it, we had the munitions to be delivered, we had



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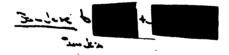
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Copp: 3/24/86 1100



2415202 Mar 86. Ralph should have held discussions with now re L-100 drop to Blackies troops. If you have lined up Rob Owen to go to on the L-100, suggest you call and ensure he does all possible get load released from -- also emphasize we ought to drop something besides 7.62, e.g., grenades, medical supplies, etc. I will be at for next three hours. Regards, Dick.

ed -> 7.62 35



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by B. Reger, Nations, Security Council

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Apparently, Rob and you are trying to work up clean out of but L-100 must come home. Toom many cooks in this broth and Gadd and Sat very unhappy. Ralph talked to Romano at or -- not sure which -- yesterday at 1400L.

Romano said FDN totally unaware of any agreement to send anything to Blackies troops. FDN needs all its stuff for itself. This e mess is result of incompetence on CIA part or worse.

To. Tues to express surprise. Meanwhile, my ability to sell this cype MSN continues to erode because of lack of professionalism. This cannot be totally attributed to recent combat since claims deal was put together long ago.

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Exhibit C/CATF-24

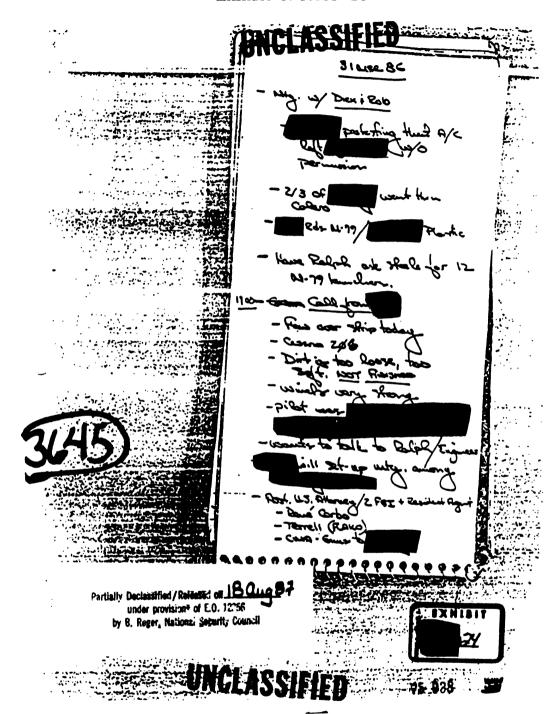
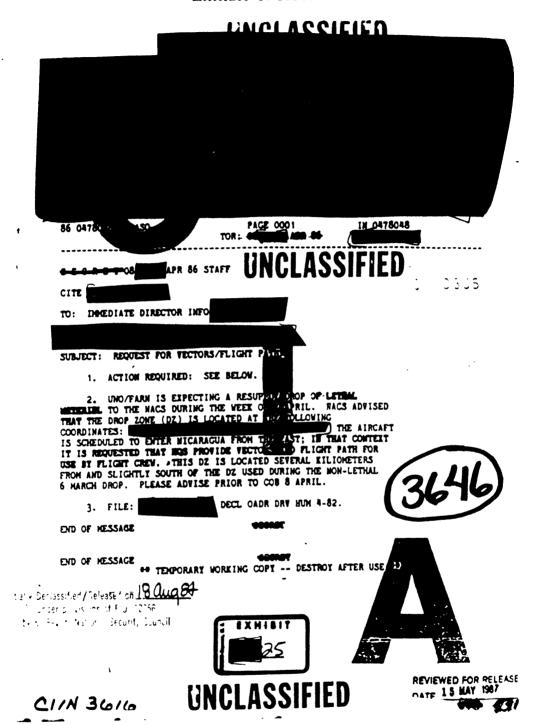
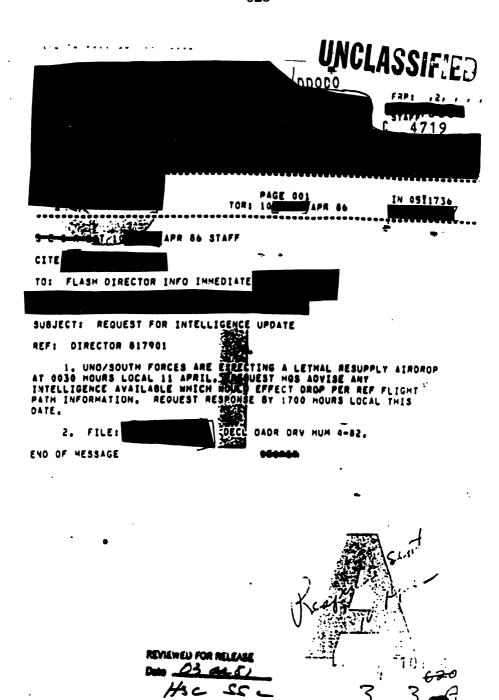


Exhibit C/CATF-25





7. UNCLASSIFIED The unit to which we wanted to drop in the southern quadrant of Nicaragua is in desperate need of ordnance resupply. We had planned to do a material drop from the supplies we are bringing but the units - headed by cannot wait. Have therefore developed an alternative plan which has been briefed on and in which he concurs. The L-100 which flies from to on Wednesday should terminate it's NHAO mission on arrival at point it should load the supplies at which - theoretically is assembling today at _____ - and take them to ' These items should then be transloaded to the C-123 after being properly rigged. On any night between Wednesday, Apr 9, and Friday, Apr 11 these supplies should be dropped by the C-123 in the vicinity of The A/C shd penetrate Nicaragua across the Atlantic Coast shouth of Call signs freqs and zone marking light diagram to be provided to Ralph at by the new UNO Sur operator we are taking care of. Hope we can make this happen the right way this time. If we are ever going to take the pressure off the northern front we have got to get this drop in - quickly. Please make sure that this is retransmitted via this channel to Ralph, Sat and Steele. Owen already briefed and prepared to go w/ the L-100 out of ____if this will help. Please advise soonest. Warm regards,

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Goode

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troops in south in 0823302 Apr86. CIA and Goode report desperate fix. Therefore, is supposed to arrange for a via L199 tomorrow afternoon. load to come from This is to include chutes and other drop gear. Notify Steele we intend to drop tomorrow nite or more likely Thurs nite. Commo man is coming via commercial tomorrow with gear necessary to put our HF network on air. Meanwhile, contact via this machine and get latest on DZ coordinates and the other data I gave you the format for. Pls start coordination now. I want to use the L199 not the C123 for this 1st mission. bring the C123K in tomorrow and will then be the captain on the L199 for the drop. CIA wants the aircraft to enter the DZ area from the Atlantic. This is O.K. but tell if he wants to--all black of course. BT

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April 09 0910. All coordination with for UNO South forces droping done for Thurs. nite. Also commo operator with OTP only waiting HQS/Wash final approval to be sended. We will pay transporation and upkeep in here they cover family there. New subject. Forseing direct confrontation FDN rep here. Claims warehouse theirs and anything brought in has to have his approval to be moved out. Claims orders. Don't repeat Don't accept Uno concept but only Fdn as military force. We might have to remove him permanently from for 707. Advice your opinion. which airline our commo man is arriving today? If loaded needs our help at customs.

BT

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Copp: 4/9/86 1745

0922152 Apr 86.

- special drop crew in place at and are prepared to make drop yet tonight, if miracle occurs and L-100 makes it into in next few hours with chutes, rigging, and occurance as well as good in-commission status. C-123K is ready and mission capable. Ralph is in good contact with me via KL-43.
- 2. Palso in contact with Ralph via KL-43 and is passing current intelligence for drop crew.
- 3. Relph reports they have solved problem -- don't know whether they shot him, paid him, ejected him or what.
- 4. Mr. Moses fixed good recorder on my phone for the state of and when he ever calls again. Allah Akbar. Dick. ST

The 1-1700 Carried animal animal as 6-100 m/ land of 7.62 + 51

Carried animal animal continues

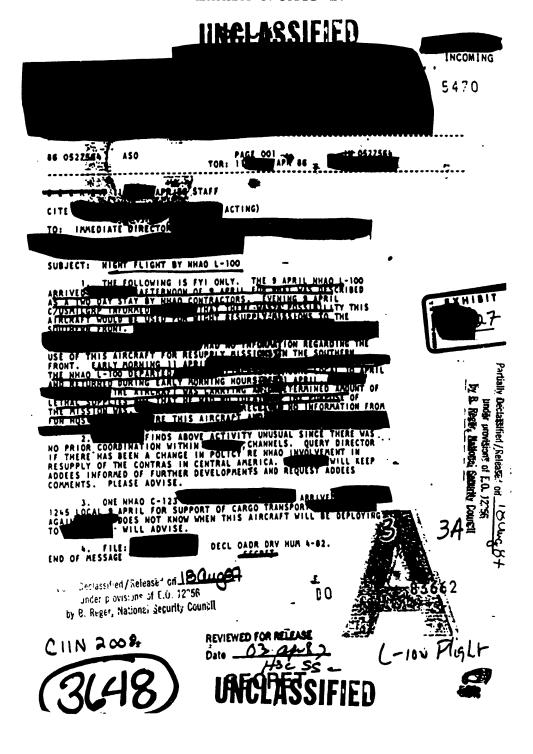
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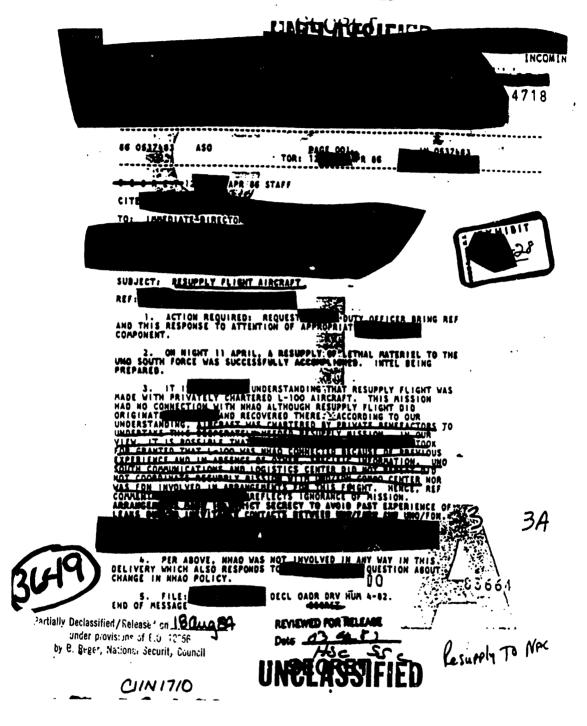
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Exhibit C/CATF-27





4/12/44 1200 UNGLAS

1030 hours local April 12. Per UNO South Force, drop successfully completed in 15 minutes. Force requested to send full report/ inventory. When told, almost cried in grateful appreciation. Our plans during next 2-3 weeks includes air drop maritime deliveries NHAO supplies to same, NHAO air drop to UNO South, but w/certified air worthy aircraft, lethal drop to UNO South, wisit to UNO South Force with photogs, UNO newspapers, caps and shirts, and transfer of 20 UNO/FARM recruits carrying all remaining cached lethal materiel to join UNO South Force. My objective is creation of 2,500 man force which can strike northwest and link-up with quiche to form solid southern force. Likewise, envisage formidable opposition on Atlantic Coast resupplied at or by sea. Realize this may be overly ambitious planning but with your help, believe we can pull it off.

New subject. AFP story appeared in morning paper
U.S. attorney south Florida investigation arms, drugs traffic involving insurgents and U.S. sympathisizers. Terrell, CMA named. Focus on Mar 1985 shipment ft. Lauderdale via

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New subject. Ref Cruz split. Why not offer Cruz provisional presidency in secret agreement signed by principals?

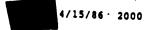
Regards, DV. BT

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by B. Reger, National Securit, Council

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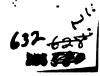
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by 707 yesterday is a plane load of Delivered to ordnance for your friends. Ammo aboard includes 7.62 x 39 and a like amt of 51. Also have grenades, ancillary items for the C-4 plastic explosives -blastic caps, det cord, etc., and light machine gunds w rds of linked ammo and a enti-personnel mines for use in ambushes. When and where do you want this stuff. We are prepared to deliver as soon as you call for it. UNO/FARN communicator being placed in If so, please have this guy coordinate with Ralph so that we have things wired together. Also wish to note my guys are flying without any intel. Can we do something about getting them the radar profiles of Nic AAA raders, etc. BT



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April 23-1300 costs Rics. Net with this morning.

1- Ope postpone, no future date yet.

2- Drop to 20 Indians in C. Rics reschedule for nite drop but still for end of this week. Evaluate if possible giving range C7, distance to CR. and lack of ilumination will need keg lights for this.

3- Maule run test accomplish. No reports from air crew yet but ground reports success.

May 8th. Ambassador and strongly working at it. Results might be sign of our future with new administration.

5- estimated time for big drop with L100 to Indians is 10 to 15 days after we accomplish the 20 Indians drop in C.R. phase.

intel contradict that of Goode. _ Examp

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Copp: 5/2/86 1345 This just received from Ralph. I understand it all, think you probably will:

May 02 1600 hrs.

1. We have 20 men equipment from No problem.

delayed operation because lack

are being sended here for us to take them to strip other than ours, then we proceed with cps.

- All 90 drums transferred to west together with support equipment. C-123 made three successful runs without problem.
- 3. Successful in convincing and on need to keep here, all we need now is the rifles and support weapons.
- 4. Agency hors backed up on we controlling UNO commo man they want him at with and different pad but using Lopez radio. says not to fight it.
- 5. Request approval to send C-123 to to work as we don't have any use for it here right now. Will keep caribu here for west support when needed. Advice.

U.S. LTCOL

nominated

for mil group commander for

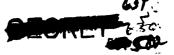
can open us the door there

new military top. In very good relation with

If we or Ollie can

help him he can be our Steele there. B

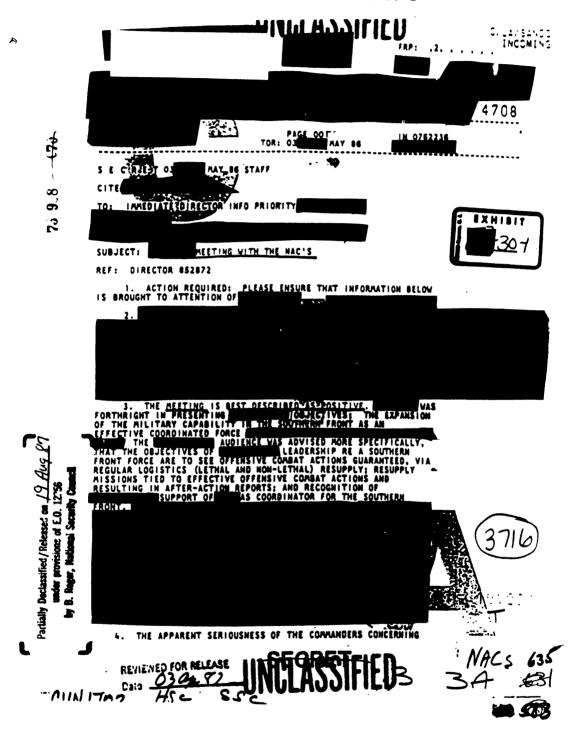
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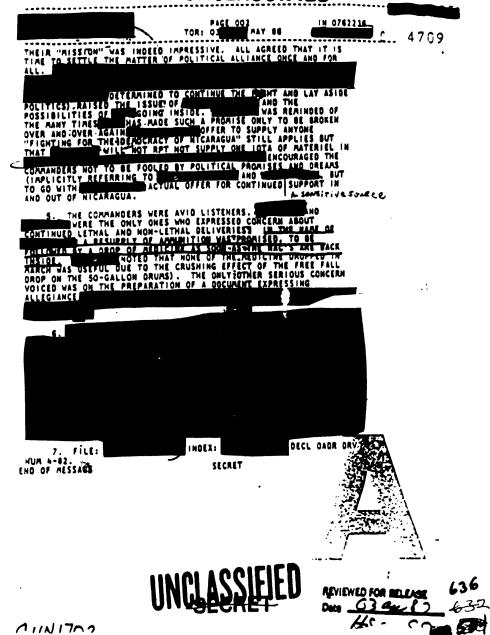
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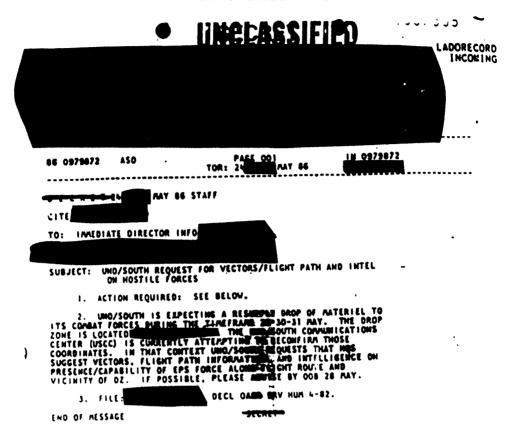
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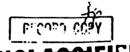




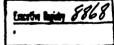
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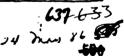
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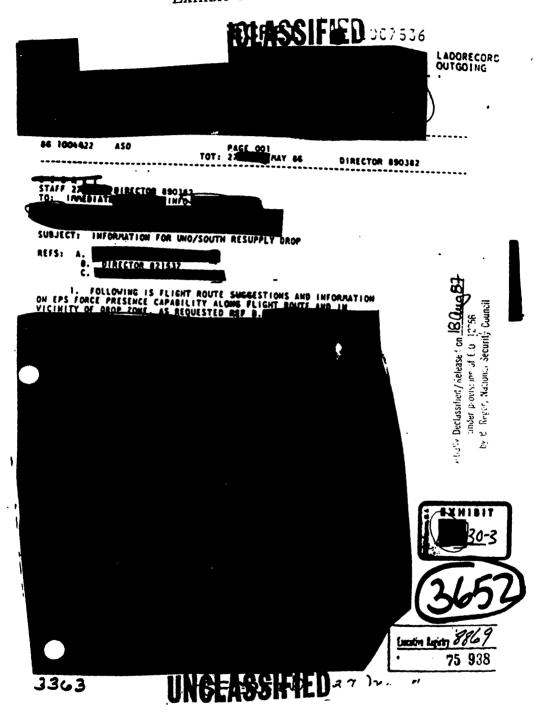
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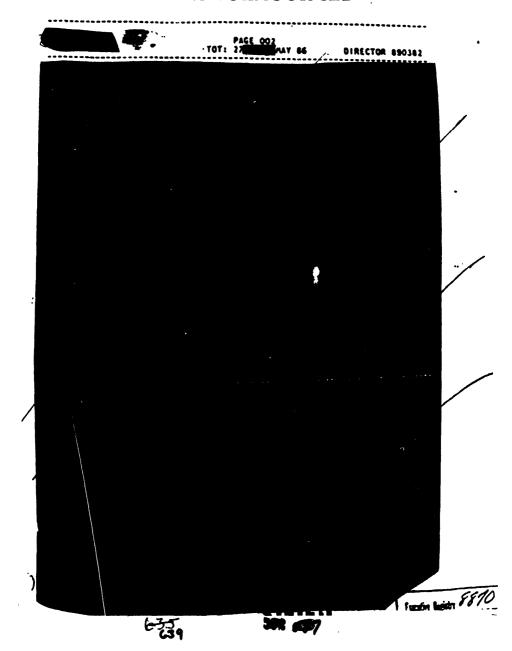






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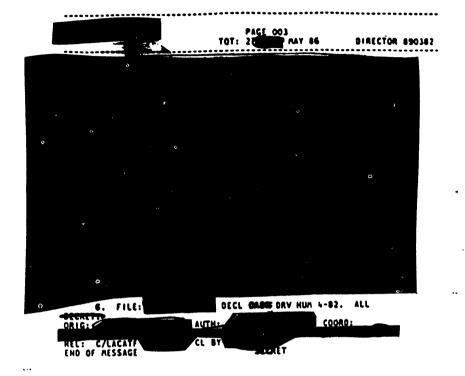
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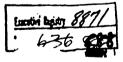
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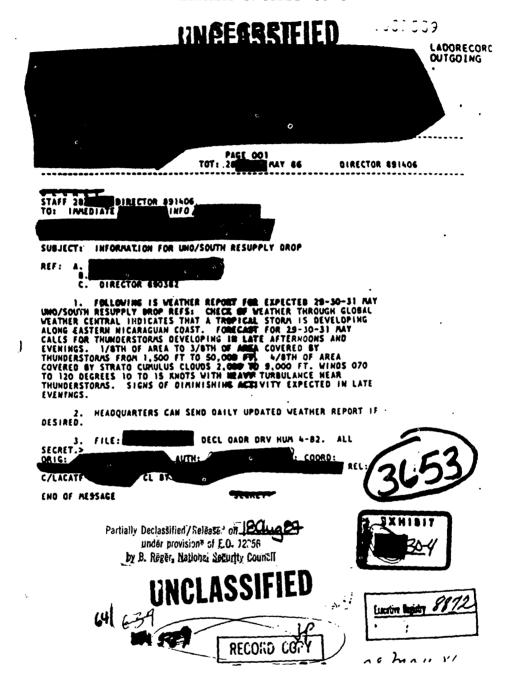
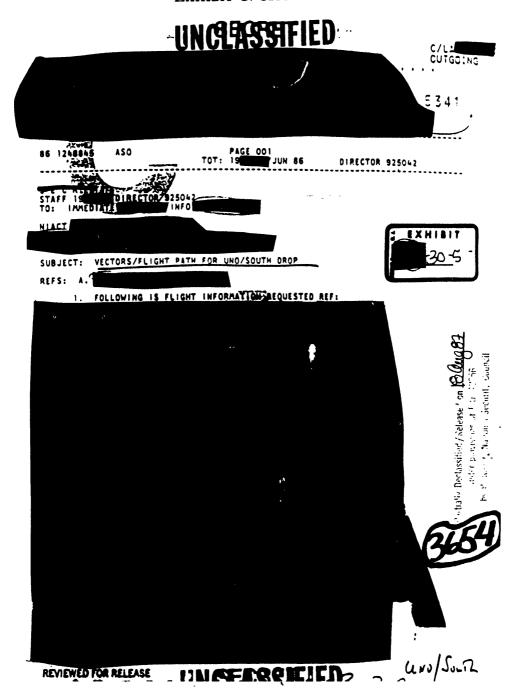


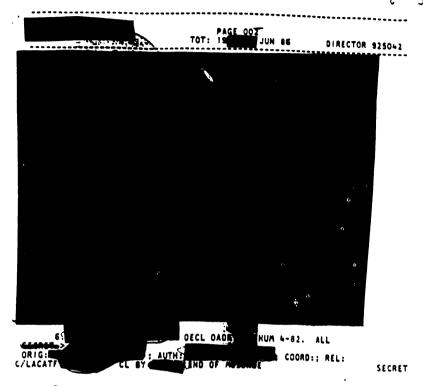
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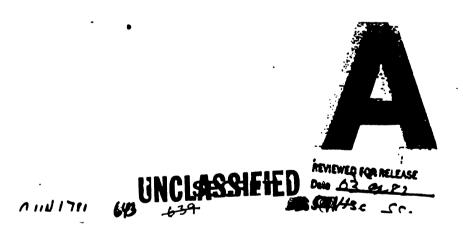
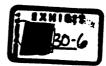


EXHIBIT C/CATF-30-6

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FLIGHT AH-VECTOR INFORMATION:

Hete enters recorded four requests for resupply drop flight cotas-vector form UNO/SOUTH between early April and mid July could be sage traffic in the CATF chrono files indicated the last three were respond to. All requests were routed through our station in the last three were respond to the benefactors, in stead it was delivered to the UNO/SOUTH Communications Center (USCC). What UNO/SOUTH did with the information, in turn, is only speculation.

Information included within the responses included entry points and checkpoints, true and passetic course headings, speed and altitude data, drop zo proaches, etc... All but one of the requests delt with nor request, hower, (for which there is precifically states that the vector of a response) aformation was intended to support the flight of a C-123 altitude arranged with "sources other than the FDN."

In addition to the flight pattern tor data, Headquarters responded to three requests for the respondence of data to support flight operations. The weather data in the generalized aviation forecasting and moon-sun data. It is air defense order of battle and the disposition of ground force units in the areas of concern were provided.

STATIONS HELP IN CLEARING AIRCRAFT

On at least one occassion, our station in instrumental in securing a flight clearance for one of Caribou aircraft from aircraft at that time was on official NHAO business carrying lethal supplies.

Se tially Declassified/Release on 18 Aug 17

ny 9 Reger, National Securit, Council



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Date 15 APR 87
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Exhibit C/CATF-31

STAFF 28 BINECTOR 890554
TOT: 24 DAY 86 DIRECTOR 890554
TO: INVESTATE

SUBJECT:

GUIDELINES REGARDING UNO/FDH AND UNO/SOUTH

REPEAT ON AMERICAL OR MONEYAND WITH SOUTH CONTROL OF PROVIDED TO UNA/FM TO SOUTH CONTROL OF PROVIDED TO PROVIDE AND COMPONENT AFFORMER AND APPROVED BY MS. AND CAN PROVIDED TO SOUTH CONTROL OF PROVIDED TO SOUTH

by H. Reger Matient, activity council





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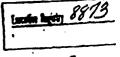




EXHIBIT C/CATF-32

26 Hovember 1986

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MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Director for Operations



Chief, Latin America Division Possible Impropriety in

The following information is submitted as a follow-up to our meeting on this topic on 10 November. You may recall that last May, shortly after I assumed by present job, I

TOYOUTH BING together with all the Central American At that meeting the activities of the Private Benefactors (Pl's) were raised as a source of potential problems to the The major concern was

During a

The major concern was and the need to keep our programs and the need to keep our programs completely separate from PB activities and personnel. During a discussion of the PB's, I learned that the paight possibly have been involved interest that the paight possibly have been involved interest which at least technically could constitute interpreparety.

2. At issue was the inability of the WHO/South elements to pass securely to the PB's interingence obtained from us to facilitate aerial resupply drops to WHO forces inside Nicaragua. This intelligence included information on flight vectors, Sandinista radadand anti-aircraft positions and other rectors, Sandinista rada and anti-aircraft positions and other data needed to carry out safe aerial deliveries. The Oversigh Connittees were briefed on our practice of providing UNO with this intelligence for use in arranging safe deliveries. In the case of PB aerial deliveries to UNO/FDN forces, this The Oversight In the and subsequently was sent by an FDN communicator in another FDN communicator in for passify to the PB's. -UNO/South, however, experienced difficulties. In positioning a communicator in the passify to the positioning a communicator in the property of the positioning a communicator in the passify to the positioning a communicator in the positioning and property of the property of t COLUNO/EDN was therefore passing the data directly to the

3. Upon learning of this, I instructed stop this practice and to take whatever steps to o necessary and proper to have a UNO/South communicator assigned to unfortunately, rivalries between the two groups prevented UNO/South from using the services of the UNO/FDN communicator at that time). With a UNO/South communicator

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by B. Reger, National Securit, Council Duniane

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pass) the information to UNO/South for transmission to the Saving its communicator in that city. You will recall that city its communicator in that city. You will recall that city its property to make I felt had resolved a possible problem of impropriety involving would then have been able

Upon version, CATF engaged in a cable dialogue with Sover the question of the UNO/South

communicator's assignment to At the conclusion of this dialogue, it was decided that CIA could not on legel Poucy grounds actively facilitate the assignment of the communicator, and a cable to that effect was sent to both At the same time, however, I was informed by CATF that UNO/South had been able to place a communicator in on its own. Thus I believed that the problem was resolved.

In early November C/CATP learned during a trip to that a U.S. reporter suspected of working on behalf of the Sandinistas claimed, in the atternath of the Hassenfus affair, to have information indicating that the same of the Hassenfus affair, that the same of the PR's Pooth at his office and at his home.

to travel to Headquarters to discuss the problem and learned that, contrary to by understanding and instructions, the UNO/South communicator had not been able to locate to and that had continued to act on his own as an intermediary between UNO/South and the PB's. However, all PB flights terminated with the downing of Lasked the Hassenfus aircraft, and thus the question of continued communications between and the state and became moot at that point.

claimed that there were some calls For a house in which Hassenfus had lived to and to the home of whom worked in an office suspensive the "intelligence section".



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it is our view that communications with the PB's rdid not violate the prohibitions of Section 105 of the FY 86 Intelligence Authorization Act, which superseded Boland-type restrictions which were in place until modifications were made in the FY 85 Supplemental Appropriations Bill of August 1985. However'll recommend that you obtain a separate reading on this point from OCC. Regardless of legality issues, you may want to consider whether any disciplinary measures are called for. Naturally I assume full responsibility for all activities occurring within my Division.





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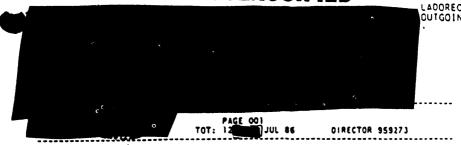
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EXHIBIT C/CATF-33



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> LADORECORD OUTGOING



STAFF 12 DIRECTOR 959273

SUBJECT: NEW UND SOUTH COMMO LINK

REF: DIRECTOR 956421

1. FURTHER TO REF. HEADQUARTERS, HAS REVIEWED OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TUNO/SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND WITH THE HOUSE PASSAGE OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE TO THE INCARAGUAN RESISTANCE WE HAVE TAKEN A SECOND LOOK AT THE COMMO LINK. TO DATE WE MAVE MAINTAINED OUR DISTANCE FROM THE PRIVATE BENEFACTORS (PB) WHORARE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE REISTANCE AND HAVE REPEATEDLY BRIFFED CONGRESS THAT WE DO NOT MAVE ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PB'S. THE PROPOSED PROGRAM OF ASSISTANCE WOULD CHANGE OUR POLICY. WHILE THERE IS UNDENIABLY ARE OUTWEIGHED BY THE FACT THAT THE PB'S YOULD BE RECEIVING ASSISTANCE IN HELPING THE RESISTANCE. AS ADDEES ARE AWARE THERE ASSISTANCE IN HELPING THE RESISTANCE. AS ADDEES ARE AWARE THERE AROUND ARE FALSE; CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE A FIRM HANDLY ON WHETHER ALL OF THE ALLEGATIONS FLOATING AROUND ARE FALSE; CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE A FIRM HANDLY ON THE PRIVATE ALL OF THE ALLEGATIONS FLOATING AROUND ARE FALSE; CONSEQUENTLY, WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE ASSISTANCE TIED INTO AN ENTITY THAT MAY OR MAY NOT BE BAD. WE HAVE COME TOO FAR AT THIS TIME TO LET THE SOLID OPERATIONS THAT HAS BUILT BE JEOPARDIZED BY ELEMENTS WHICH WE ARE UNABLE TO CONTROL.

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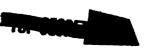
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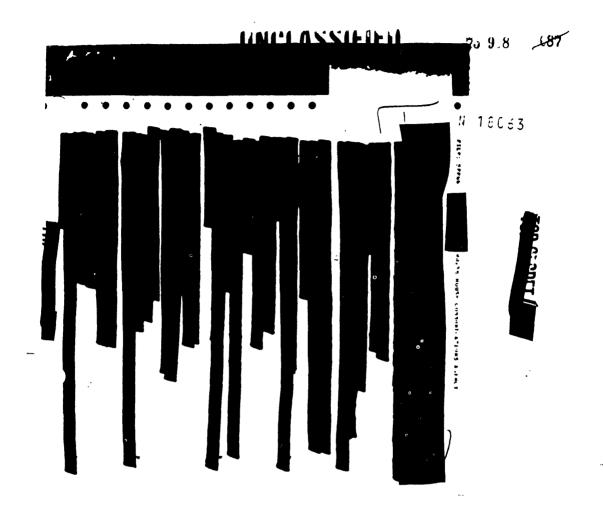
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September 30, 1986

IMP HAS SEEN

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR JOHN M. POINDEXTER

FROM:

OLIVER L. NORTH

under provisions at \$1,256 by 8. Reger, Nations, 25 to 250mi

SUBJECT:

Press Guidance re Costa Rican Airstrip

Attached at Tab I is draft press guidance regarding the airstrip at Santa Elena, Costa Rica, which was divulged by the Costa Rican Security Minister at a press conference on Friday, September 26. This story has now been picked up by the New York Times (Tab II) and is generating press questions at State and Defense.

The press guidance at Tab I has been coordinated with State (Abrams), Defense (Armitage), and CIA Due to the extreme sensitivity of the issue, your approval is requested before the guidance is used in responding to queries.

The damage done by this revelation is considerable. As indicated in the CIA report at Tab III, the logistics support provided by Project Democracy has had a profound impact on the ability of the resistance to sustain itself in the field.

The airfield at Santa Elena has been a vital element in supporting the resistance. Built by a Project-Democracy proprietary (Udall Corporation, S.A. -- a Panamanian company), the field was initially used for direct resupply efforts (July 1985 - February 1986). Since early this year, the field has served as a primary abort base for aircraft damaged by Sandinista anti-aircraft fire. The photographs at Tab IV show the field in June 1986 and a damaged Project Democracy (C-MB), which made an emergency landing on the field early this month.

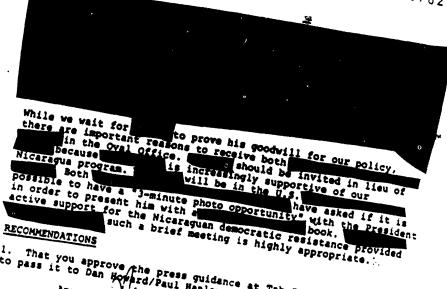
The Arias Administration revelations regarding this facility have caused Project Democracy to permahently close Udall Corporation and dispose of its capital assets. It has also resulted in the loss of a facility important to keeping the resistance supplied and in the field against the Sandinistas.

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1. That you approve the press guidance at Tab I and authorize us to pass it to Dan Howard/Paul Hanley for their use if asked.

Dfasporove

2. That you approve a brief photo op session with during your NSC briefing time in the October 17-21 prapared. If you approve, an appropriate memorandum will be prepared.

Disapprove Attachments

Tab I - Press Guidance
Tab II - NYT Article by James Lemoyne of September 29, 1986
Tab III - CIA Special Analysis, "Micaragua: Rebel Resupply
Tab IV - Photographs TCS 2922/86 of September 23, 1986

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September 30, 1986

PRESS GUIDANCE RE AIRSTRIP IN COSTA RICA # 28783 3

DID U.S. PERSONNEL SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION OF THE AIRSTRIP IN NORTHERN COSTA RICA?

"The U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica, has reported that during the Administration of Former President Monge the Ministry of Public Security was offered the use of a site on the Santa Elena Peninsula which could be used as an extension of the civil guard training center at Murcielago. The site included a serviceable airstrip which could have supplemented the small one which is located near the training center. The offer was reportedly made by the owners of the property who had apparently decided to abandon plans for a tourism project. The Embassy has no information on the Ministry's decision concerning the offer. No U.S. Government funds were allocated or used in connection with this site nor were any U.S. Government personnel involved in its construction. Any further inquiries should be referred to the Government of Costa Rica."

WAS THE AIRSTRIP INTENDED FOR USE BY THE CONTRAS?

The Government of Costa Rica has made clear ts position that it will not permit the use of its territory for military action against neighboring states. The U.S. Government respects that position.

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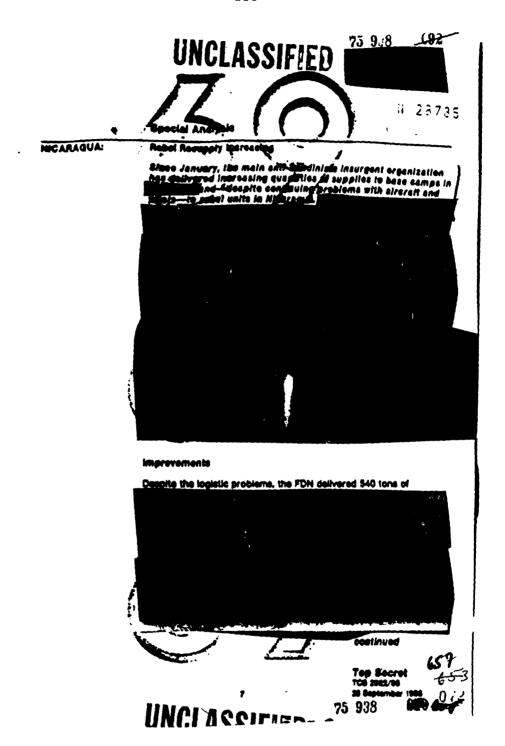
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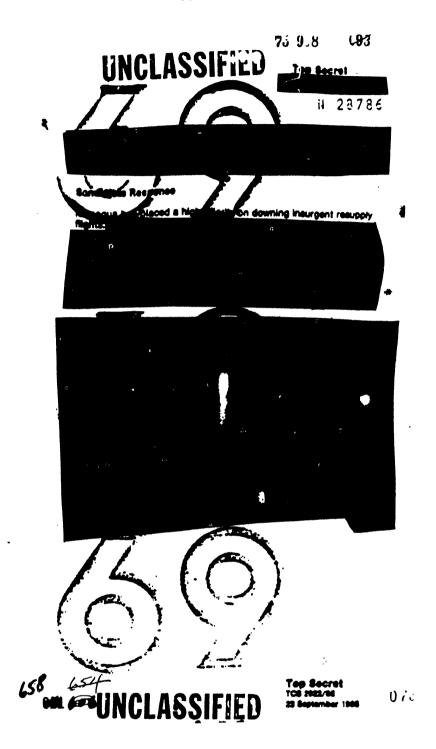
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Americans Reportedly Supervised Airstrip Project Near Nicaragua



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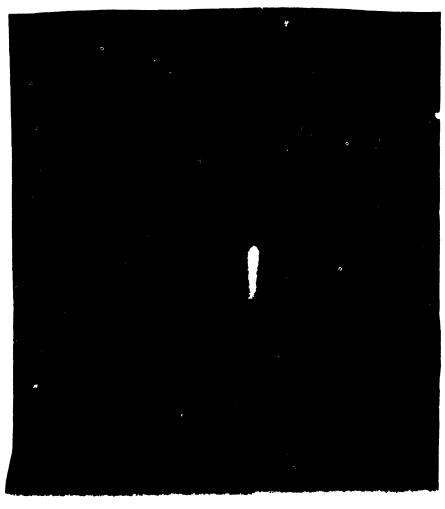




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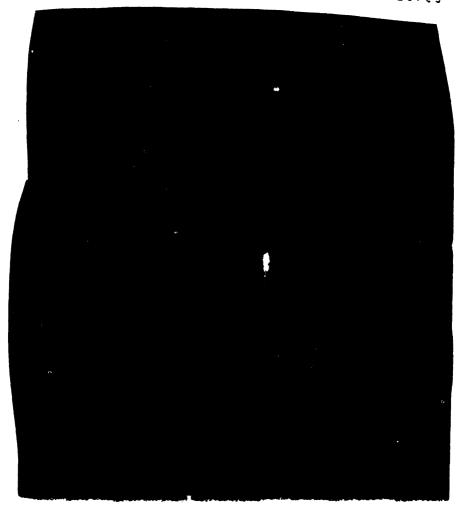
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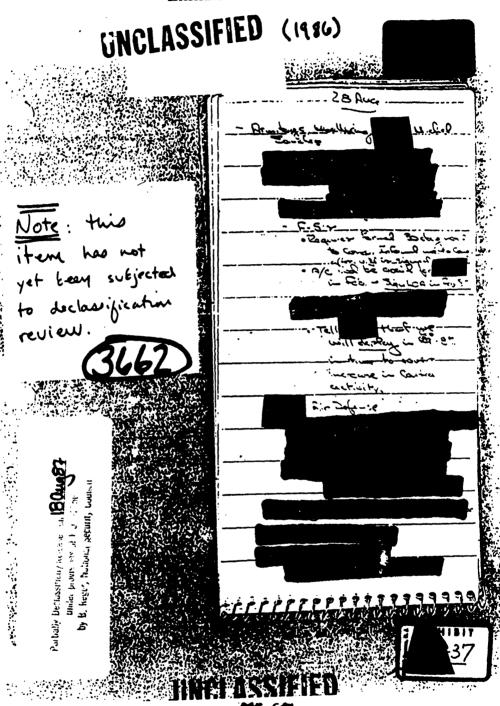
PROJECT DEMOCRACY AIR FACILITY Santa Elena, Costa Rica June 10, 1986



DAMAGED PROJECT DEMOCRACY RE-185 After Landing at Santa Elena Facility September 12, 1986

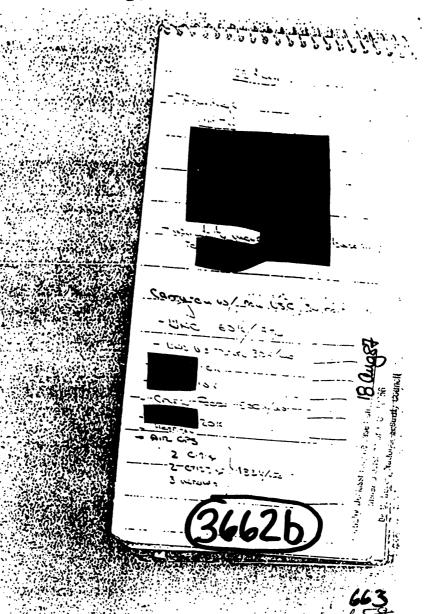


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Oliver North's Schedule

Friday, August 29

Steve Shock (WHMO) "personal" 5 mins 09:5-5 mins.

0930-OLN on CA Rm 450 1030 Coalition of Apostolics . Board of Governors

1230-Lunch w/Noel Koch Jean Pierre

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1415- Father Tom Dowling

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Oliver North's Schedule

Wednesday, Aug 27

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in "Park"

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1100- Michael Ledeen

Depart for Funeral 1230-

Funeral - Ft. Myer Chapel, Arlington 1300-Cemetery for Don Fortier

1600-LTGEN Benard Trainor

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1700-Rich Miller

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Oliver North's Schedule

Tuesday, Sept 2

0730-0054 COFE

Michael Ledeen Paul Murray (FBI) + one

GEN John Singlaub 1400-GEN Sobert Schweitzer

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Oliver North's Schedule

Thursday, August 29

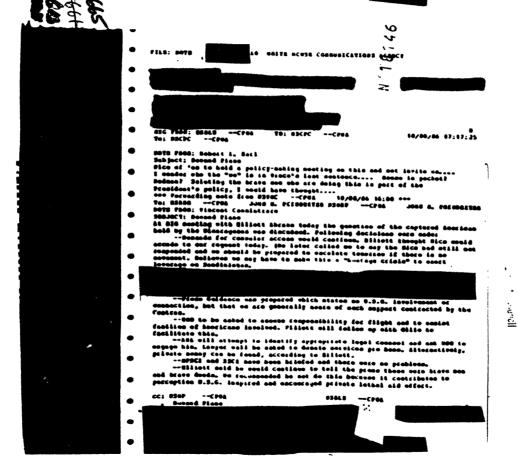
Breakfast (PNT 45208) 0730-Armitage Michel-Moellering-Sanchez

Walt Raymond Mtg 1000-

1100-

George Van Eron

OSG-TIWG Rm 302 1500-



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EXHIBIT C/CATF-38

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EXHIBIT C/CATF-39

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U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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BRIEFING ON DOWNED AIRPLANE

Tuesday, October 14, 1986

U.S. House of Representatives,

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence,
Washington, D. C.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 3:20 p.m., in Room H-405, the Capitol, the Honorable Lee H. Hamilton (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Hamilton (presiding), Stoke McCurdy, Beilenson, Kastenmeier, Daniel, Roe, Brown, McHugh, Dwyer, Stump, Ireland, Hyde, Cheney and McEwen.

Staff Present: Thomas K. Latimer; Staff Director; Michael J. O'Neil, Chief Counsel; Steven K. Berry, Associationsel; Jeanne M. McNally, Clerk; Martin C. Faça, Duane ; Andrews, Richard H. Giza and Diane S. Dornan, Professional Staff Members; Bernard Raimo, Jr. and David S. Addington, Counsel.

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STATEMENT OF

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::

Clair George, Deputy Director for Operations, Central Intelligence Agency

--accompanied by--Chief, Central America Task
Force, DDO

Special Assistant to the DDO
David Gries, Director, Office of Congressional
Affairs
Rat Taylor, Deputy Director for House Affairs

Pat Taylor, Deputy Director for House Affairs, Office of Congressional Affairs

Ambaccades Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs, Department of State -accompanied by--

William Walker, Deputy Assistant Secretary for General, American Affairs, Bureau of Inter-American Affairs

Richard Melton, Director, Office of Central American Affairs, Bureau of Inter-American Affairs

Robert Kagan, Deputy for Public Diplomacy,
Sureau of Inter-American Affairs
Michael G. Kozak, Principal Deputy Legal Adviser
John E. McAteer, Office of Legislative Affairs
(Latin America)

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The Chairman. Good afternoon, gentlemen. The meeting will come to order.

We appreciate very much the opportunity to listen to you this afternoon on the Nicaraguan problems of recent vintage.

We apologize for the delay. I think you may know that Secretary Shultz was briefing Members on the Iceland meeting at 2:15. We appreciate very much the fact that you have accommodated yourself to that schedule.

Nr. Clair George, who is the Deputy Director for Operations:

Chief, Central America Task Force; and

Authorouser Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary for

I presume there are other witnesses that may need to be introduced from time to time, but we are pleased to have you.

Mr. George, are you the lead-off witness? You may begin, sir.

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Inter-American Affairs.

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STATEMENT OF CLAIR GEORGE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY Mr. George. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First I would like to state categorically that the Central Intelligence Agency was not involved directly or indirectly in arranging, directing, or facilitating resupply missions conducted by private individuals in support of the Nicaraguan Democratic Resistance.

Furthermore, I would like to state categorically that the crew of the C-123 aircraft which crashed on 5 October in Nicaragua were not CIA employees, nor do they work for us in any way.

I might interject here that I have biographic information on Mr. Hasenfus, the gentleman who is being held hostage in Managua; Messrs. Cooper and Sawyer who were killed in the crash, and Felix Rodriquez, the gentleman whose name as Max Gomez has lately been in the paper.

of these individuals, and possibly others, were associated with our agency at some time in the past, but are not associated with us now, and as the testimony goes on today, I would be glad to fill you in, Mr. Chairman, and Members, of the background and relationships of these gentlemen with our agency.

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The Chairman. You began with a series of denials of CIA involvement in any way, directly or indirectly, in supplying the contras. Does the same denial apply to the United States Government across the board?

In other words --

Mr. George. Mr. Chairman, I cannot speak for the Uni States Government. I can speak for the Central Intelligen Agency.

The Chairman. Can anybody assure us that the United States Government was not involved, indirectly or directly in any way, in supply of the contras?

Me Ambassador Abrams. I believe we have already done that, that is, I think, the President has done it, the Secretary has done it, and I have done it.

The Chairman. So the answer is the United States Government was not involved in any way.

Ambassador Abrams. In the supply. Now again, this normal intelligence monitoring is there, but the answer to your question is yes.

The Chairman. So far as you know, the United States was not in violation of any law relating to the supply of the contras?

Mr. George. As far as I know, that is true,

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Mr. Chairman.

Proceeder Abrams. Yes.

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The Chairman. Did we ask

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21 22 are they doing it at our request?

Mr. George. The Central Intelligence Agency did not.
The Chairman. Did the government ask

that?

say that it would have been conceivable to conclude that we would think this would be a great idea. But they never came to us and said to my knowledge should we do this?

The Chairman. Now, I am correct, am I not, the

controls that air base and these

flights could not take off without the approval of the

Yes.

The Chairman. So they knew about these flights, the flights had been going on for what, several years?

Not to our knowledge, no. The flights that are the ones called the benefactor flights, first came to our attention in April-May of 1986. Prior to that time we had not -- did not notice flights

Mr. George. We knew of air drops right back almost to the time of the cutoff in 1984, but this crowd out of

is a recent development the Chirman.

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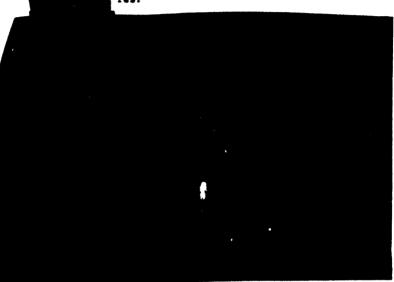
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The Chairman. In any event, whoever was operating this supply to the contras, they would have to have had the permission of

Mr. George. Yes.

Yes.



The Chairman. Now, with regard to the private operation here, how much do you know about that private operation and how do you know it? You have indicated to us that you weren't targeting it -- I appreciate that, I accept that -- but how much do you know about it?

Mr. George. We had extensive intelligence

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The Chairman. Do you know anything about these private groups?

Mr. George. We knew,

that there was a private group that was probably engaged in private benefactor support. We also knew that there was a group -correct me if I am wrong -- a group in was engaged in private benefactor assistance.

The Chairman. Do you know who that group was or is? Mr. George. I do not. I told you, Mr. Chairman, and I know this may cause some serious questioning, but we told our people to stay away from them.

The Chairman. You don't know whose simplane that was? Mr. George. I have no idea. I read -- except what I read in the paper.

The Chairman. I understand, but you don't know? Wo, we do not know.

The Chairman. There are a number of airplanes that tak off there to supply the contras regularly. You don't know who they are?

We know what the airplanes are by type. We knew, for example, there were two C-123s and two C-7 cargos. We knew they were flying out of we knew they were flying both from into Nicaragua. We knew in some cases much less

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frequently that they were flying down the Pacific air corridors into southern Nicaragua for the purposes of resupply, but as to who was flying the flights and who was behind them, we do not know.

The Chairman. And you still don't?

No.

Mr. George. No, sir.

We know from the newspapers that a company called Corporate Air Services is the company that appears to have some involvement with them, but --

Mr. George. What we know at this point is as says, is from the press.

The Chairman. Do you know if any foreign government is helping to supply the contras? There is a report in the

Mr. George. No, sir, we have no intelligence of that.

**Markedor Abrams. I can only speak on that question
for the last fifteen months when I have been in this job
and that story about the to my knowledge is faire.

I personally cannot tell you about pre-1985, but in 19851986, when I have been around, no.

The Chairman. Is it also false with respect to other governments as well?

Ambaccador Abrams. Yes, it is also false.

The Chaleman. MEUNCLASSIFIED

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Mr. Brown, we have out cables, telegrams, cables as we call them, to our stations starting in September, 1984, reminding them, reminding our employees of the restrictions placed upous and urging them to avoid any contact with those who were involved in it, and more recently urging them to avoid contact with private benefactors.

In addition, those cables which were based on judgment of myself and those working with me, we have a legal position that was written by our legal staff as to what we can and cannot do under Executive Order 12-333, which leads, as you suspect it would, into a legal quagmire of arguing about what we are supposed to do and not do involving American citizens.

Mr. Brown. I would like to have all of these iccuments in the Committee file bearing on this subject, if it is not too great a burden.

Mr. George. Certainly.

Mr. Brown. Do you have access to or do you know of similar documents that may have been issued by other agencies such as DoD, State, or even in the White House?

Mr. George. I don't.



No, I don't.

Mr. George. Sorry, Mr. Brown.

Mr. Brown. I won't ask you to provide those, the

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You have testified that you have fairly accurate knowledge of the resupply operations. Would you be able to provide us with a month-by-month analysis since the cut-off of your involvement as to the amount of such resupply?

Mr. George. We could certainly provide you with what we have reported since them and the reports themselves, and the finished intelligence on it.

Mr. Brown. I want to make sure I ask the right questions, and I want you to provide the Committee with all the information that you have with regard to resupply operations.

Yee.

Mr. George. Yes.

Since the funding cut-off.

Mr. George. Since the funding was legally cut off

in 1984.

Mr. Brown. That is correct.

Mr. George. Yes, sir.

(The information referred to follows:)

(*** COMMITTEE INSERT ***)

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Mr. Brown. Now, I understand that the Agency provides intelligence to the contras with regard to activities going on in Nicaragua. I presume from that that you are aware of any overflights for the purpose of resupply. Am I correct in this?

Yes. We don't necessarily know about them ahead of time, however. We know about them after they have taken place.

Mr. Brown. Could you provide in similar fashion month by month, since 1985, the number of such supply flights that you have monitored? The purpose of this, of course, is to determine from what information you have the extent of such flights.

Mr. George. Sure.

(The information referred to follows:)

(*** COMMITTEE INSERT ***)

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DEPOSITION 33

doing that and outlining it the way he did.

If that was his understanding, then he has some misunderstandings.

about dynamog. 16, 1986 you attended a briefing of the where of the MPSCI staff. I suspect Mr. Gisa was present.

The purpose of the briefing -- it appears you were summoned or requested -- the agency, I should say, was requested to attend, because the Hasenfus plane had recently gone down, and the focus was to -- it appears from the questioning, at least, and from the memorandum done about the pre-briefing -- it was a pre-brief -- that the members of the committee wanted to know about United States Government involvement with the operation in the Hasenfus was involved.

You testified last time that by January or so of 1986, late December 1985, January 1986, you began to suspect that Colonel Morth has got some involvement with that operation, that in the summer of 1985 Colonel North comes to you and wants -- suggests to you that the agency should purchase the assets, that in August of 1986 you attended a meeting that you really wished that you had not attended that involved -- I can't remember if you were at the meeting with Felix Rodrigues or --EXMINIT

Not, definitely not the meeting with



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Felix Rodriguez.

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Q You were at the follow-up meeting, I guess, when Felix Rodriguez was discussed, and some of what he said was discussed.

Let me just ask you -- there were a number of questions that were posed, principally to Mr. George, asking what the agency knew about this private operation, and Mr. George -- and even more strongly, Mr. Abrams -- both emphatically stated -- Mr. George says the agency had no involvement whatsoever, but it appears Mr. Abrams states that the United States Government had no involvement in that private resupply operation.

Is that your recollection of what occurred at that meeting?

A Generally, yes.

I would have to read the transcript to reflect my recollection. But generally, that was it, yes.

- Q the diff't you speak up and tell the committee about pure helief by this time that Calenal North was involved if the Speration?
- A Let me start off by saying that Mr. George's position at the agency was not involved in these operations. That is absolutely accurate, according to our knowledge at that point in time.

Q I understand.

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A And I think that subsequently we did find out that
was a little more closely involved than the
instructions would have otherwise have had him be, but still
our office of General Counsel has determined that, from their
opinion, that his activity, although represented a
violation of standing operating procedures and regulations
and instructions, does not represent a violation of the

So, I think Mr. George's testimony is absolutely accurate.

I didn't speak up for two reasons. First off, the question was not directed to me. Secondly, it was my belief that even though I had bits and pieces of this thing pulled together, I did not believe it was a U.S. Government operation. I still don't believe it was a U.S. Government operation.

I didn't know then what I know now about the involvement of the involvement, apparently, based on General Second's testimony -- the alleged involvement of Colonel Steele, and didn't see the need to intervene in that testimony.

Now, I have testified in front of the House

Committee in previous times to that in direct response

to questions by Congressman Brown when he asked me a very

similar question, or questions, why we were not investigating

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And I said to Congressman Brown that so far as we have been able to tell in looking at it, the trail leads back to the United States and U.S. persons and U.S. money. And that is not a matter for us to investigate. That is where I was.

I thought they were private individuals and was unaware of the scope and nature of U.S. Government, official government positions.

I believe Ollie's involvement was one, as I think I have described, of the second team quarterback on the sidelines flashing signals to the quarterback playing the game, and not a direct involvement.

I didn't think he was running the operation. I knew he could influence it. I knew he could cause it to do things, but I didn't think he was a direct player.

So, I made a decision. It may or may not be right. Tjust stoyed silent.

I would be glad to show this to you. I am not hiding it in any fashion. The Chairman in speaking to Mr. George says -- "You began with a series of denials of CIA involvement in any way, directly or indirectly, in supplying the contras. Does the same denial apply to the United States Government across the board, in other DMM ROCKERD

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words?

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"Mr. George. Mr. Chairman, I can not speak for the United States Government. I can speak for the Central. Intelligence Agency.

"The Chairman. Can anyone assure us that the United States Government was not involved, indirectly or directly, in any way in supply of the contras?

"Mr. Abrams. I believe we have done that, and I think it is -- done that -- that is, I think the President has done it, the Secretary has done it, and I have done it.

"The Chairman. So, the answer is the United States Government was not involved in any way?"

It seems to me in reading this whole transcript the direct impression that comes across in the testimony of Mr. George and Mr. Abrams is that there is no government involvement whatsoever in this entire operation, and yet you testified before that you, as well as a number of other people in the United States Government, are, especially by October of 1986 -- have fairly certain knowledge, although some of it you derived inadvertently, that Colonel North was quite heavily involved.

Did you just make a decision that your information was not solid enough to speak up at that time? :

A well, as I think yes can see, the questions weren't

discounting see and for that I am entremely grateful.

- Q I understand.
- A Apply Empakly, at that point in time, I think to lay it out there I was just grateful the question was not directed to me.

And I don't know how to answer it, had it been directed to me. I know the CIA was not involved, and I suppose that is a tremendous parochial view, but I think that, as you see throughout the tustimony and in your investigation of this entire affair, my position has been that as I steamed through what I knew to be troubled and potentially perilous waters, I wanted to keep the agency off the shoals and clean, and made decisions that were based on that staying within the parameters, and so I would have testified similar to Mr. George, that I knew about the agency: I didn't know and would not speak about the U.S. Government.

That was the way I would have answered the question.

MR. EGGLESTON: I have nothing further.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. GIZA:

questioning that was pursued by Mr. Eggleston, when you testified before us on the first of May, you gave the



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general indication in our discussions that you pretty much knew in the winter and spring of 1986 that people like Richard Gadd, people like Felix Rodriguez, were involved in this, and you had some sense that those same individuals who were providing humanitarian assistance were also providing lethal assistance.

You recounted for us at the time an incident on the tarmac at the three was a load on an aircraft that was going to You indicated this couldn't go. You went with Felix Rodrigues, placed a direct call to Oliver North.

I would like to introduce for today Exhibit 12, CIIN No. 2307, and show that to you,

(Exhibit No.12 was marked for

identification.)

(The document marked as Exhibit No. 12 follows:)

***** INSERT 1-1 *****

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BY MR. GIZA:

- Q Are you familiar with that memo?
- A Yes.

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- Q You read it?
- A Yes.
- Q At the time --
- A Yes.
- Q -- that it occurred?
- A Yes.
- Q The memo gives an indication, at least, that Oliver North was, in fact, a principal focus of this ... operation.

One could interpret it that way. Maybe you did not. But that he had been, quote, unquote, "coordinating" between Felix Rodrigues and Oliver Morth.

So, not only did you have this incident with

Oliver North making coordination arrangements, but you had

the incident with Rodriguez where Felix Rodriguez talked

to Oliver North on the phone.

As you went through the summer, you saw additional incidents where Felix was involved with these aircraft, where North was also involved.

Ion't it true you told us that North had also

A Yes. Nor just me, the whole --

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Q Members of the RIG?

A A whole group of people. And beyond that, as I recall, it was a fairly large meeting.

Q So, you had a general sense that Oliver North was not only knowledgable of the aereal resupply effort, but he was also knowledgable of the airfield in

Let me introduce from the testimony on 14 October 1986 Exhibit No. 13.

A Okay.

(Exhibit No. 13 was marked for identification.)

(The document marked Exhibit No. 13 follows:)

***** INSERT 1-2 *****

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know?"

Q You are familiar with that testimony given by you during that session on 14 October?

A Yes.

BY MR. GIZA:

- Q While Mr. George responded to the questions as to the airplane, you also responded, indicating that you did not know, and again, when the Chairman asked secondly, you said that you again did not know.
 - A Yes.

They asked me the question. The Chairman says, "You do not know whose airplane that was?"

Mr. George said, "I have no idea. I read -- except what I read in the paper.

The Chairman said, "I understand, but you don't

No. We do not know."

At that point in time, if you would have asked me who owned that airplane, I didn't know who owned that airplane.

- Q You may not have known who the specific owner of the airplane was, but you did, in fact, know a good deal about the operation that was underway at the specific owner.
- operation so

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As I testified before, my job was to keep the agency out of that operation and to stay within the bounds of propriety and legality, and if I \rightarrow I did not allow . myself to develop a deep understanding in specific terms about how that operation ran, who was behind it, and whose airplanes those were and so on.

So, I would still stand by that answer at that point in time.

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 If you wanted to ask me whose airplanes those were, I did not know. 30 km 255 mind stoy do you know who ran the operations and what, that is a different question and that would have been a different set of answers.

But as to whose airplane that was, I am still not sure who owns those airplanes.

Q The chairman -- you indicated you did not know who was flying the flights or who was behind them. The chairman said, and you still don't know, you responded, that is right; no?

Isn't it true that an individual by the name of came to work for the Central Intelligence Agency some time in the summer of 1986?

- A. I don't know when he came to work for the Central Intelligence Agency.
- Q Wereyou knowlegeable of the fact that had participated in this private benefactor resupply effort?
- A Some time after -- I would have to get the exact dates -- after the 123 crashed and I think probably after that hearing, but again, I don't know that was brought to my attention. But I have never talked to and made it my business not to be the person that debriefed him.
- Agency who had been a direct participant in this effort?

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That is my understanding, yes. But I think that the record should be made absolutely clear that his clearance and the process of employment was begun prior to that and that he was not operating in those private flights with the -understands the instructions of the agency and indeed, I think that most, if not all of the agency management didn't know that he was involved in those private flights. It came as quite a shock to some of us and indeed to the management to find out that he was there.

Management didn't find that out until after they hired him?

I don't know. You would have to ask the people who hired him and the people for whom he worked. It didn't come to my attention until after the 123 crashed and we were doing a very thorough interim review and it came to my attention in that context. Someone said there is this fellow and he does this. I brought it to the attention of my superiors. He was thoroughly debriefed and from there the story, I think, is known.

When you had that meeting with Don Gregg, Mr. Walker, Robert Earl, Ambassador Corr, Colonel Steele, perhaps so: others that I have left out, you were certainly knowledgeable that Felix Rodriguez was a main player and involved with this private benefactor resupply effort. I believe that at the time Felix was also knowledgeable and perhaps made 75 938

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23 24 25 known names of other individuals who were involved, Richard Secord, Thomas Clines, others.

Heginn: Are you asking a question?
MR. GIZA: No, no, I am making a statement.
BY MR. GIZA:

- Q So all of these individual's names were being bandied about. Have you ever heard any of these names mention on connection with the private benefactor resupply effort?
- A Second, yes; Clines, never in direct association with it. I had seen a couple of pieces of paper that let me know that Clines might be around but more on the arms side of the equation than on the air delivery side.

I still to this day, don't associate Clines with the private Benefactors that flew the flights, but I saw a couple of peices of paper which would have allowed me to make the sort of quantum leaps that intelligence officers, operations officers make, saying, well, I wonder whether he is involved.

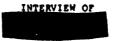
But specifically, no. And I don't recall in that meeting Clines having been mentioned at all. I don't recall Secord necessarily having been mentioned in that meeting.

- Q You knew from other information that Secord may have been involved in the operation?
- A I believe by that time I had an understanding of Secord being involved.

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PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL REVIEW BOARD



ROOM 5026

New Executive Office Building

1

Washington, D. C.

Thursday, January 8, 1987

The interview convened at 10:07 a.m.

BEFORE:

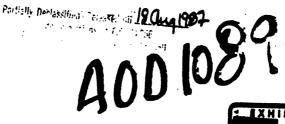
The Honorable John Tower, Chairman The Honorable Edmund Muskie General Brent Scowcroft

PRESENT:

Rhett Dawson, Esq., Director Clark McFadden, Esq. Nicholas Rostow, Esq. Michele Markoff

Brian Bruh





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And that's where we are. That's the story. I think I'll just be quiet. You must have I 001 questions now, and I'll sit back and answer them.

CHAIRMAN TOWER: Ed.

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SENATOR MUSKIE: I take it from your opening statement that you had no knowledge at all of any diversion of funds from the Iran operation.

Mo. I didn't know that even arms were being sold to Iran until it broke in the newspapers, and I didn't know that there was even a question of diversion of funding until sometime -- well, it was before it was announced. I forget when it was.

The Director and I took a trip to CentralAmerica just before he came back to testify in Movember
to the committees, to the Senate, and a courier came down
who was coming down to meet him with his briefs and such
so he could do his work on the airplane and get ready for
his testimony, and the courier said to him, you know,
there may be a problem on diversion -- and that was eight
or ten days before it broke in the newspapers.

The Director testified in the

Senate on a Friday and this was on a Mednesday. I can't
remember the exact dates. It was in November. I can
divine them, though.

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CHAIRMAN TOWER: Was it about mid-November?

Mid-November, yes. Does anybody
know when the Director first testified to the Senate?

GENERAL SCOWCROFT: No, I don't know.

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It was before Thanksgiving. It would be the Wednesday evening before the Friday before Thanksgiving. I just don't know what date that was. And that was the first I had heard anything about it.

CHAIRMAN TOWER: But we can find out.

And then, just an hour before the Attorney General made his announcement, the DDO called me up and said this is what's happened. And I said, oh, Jesus. And that was the first I had known that that was going on.

SENATOR NUSKIE: And now you said that all through 1985 there was sufficient funding for the resistance forces to cover their needs.

August of '85-forward. Their needs were much reduced because of the humanitarian assistance offers, but still they had funds before and after that. They were able to pay their debts. They were able to buy their food and they were able to meet their payments to their individuals, yes.

SENATOR MUSKIE: How specific was your

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Exhibit C/CATF-42

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MEMORANDUM FOR: A11

All CATP Personnel

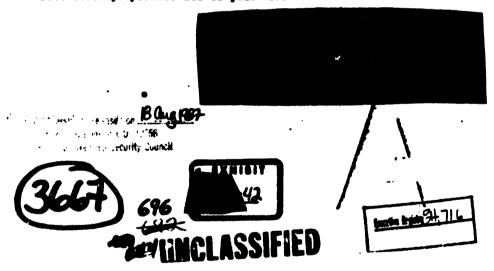
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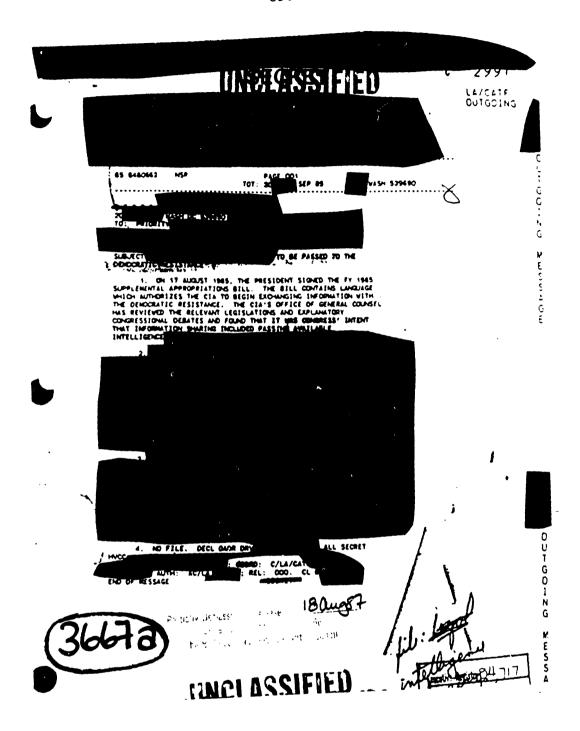
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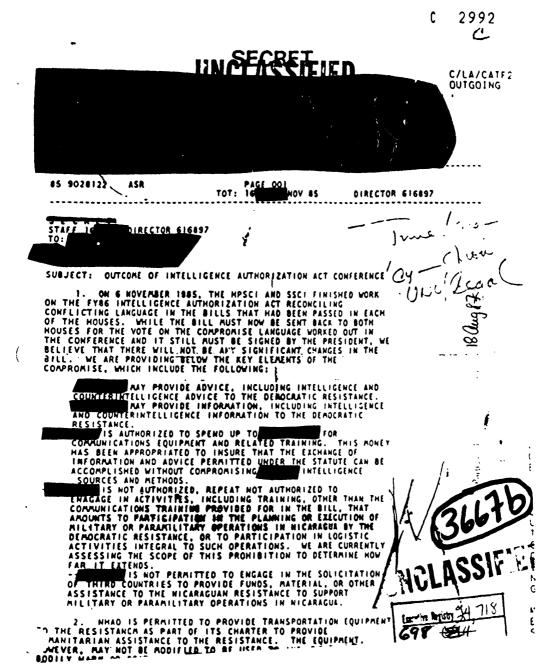
SUBJECT:

Proposed Micaragua Legislation

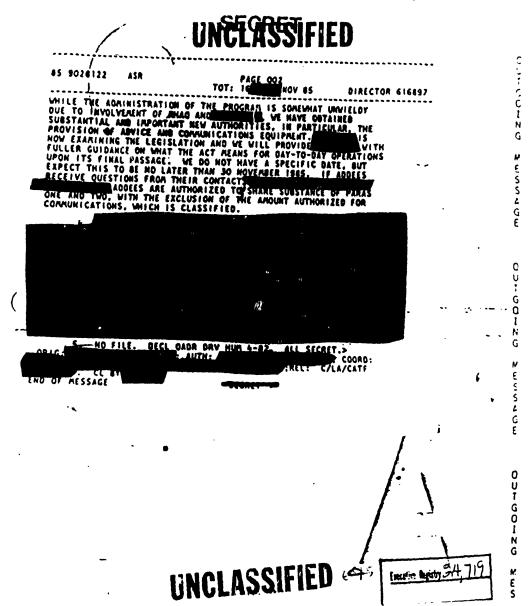
l: In recent days a large number of outgoing cables have been brought to my attention addressing activities to be conducted under the proposed Micaragua Program. Some of those cables are subject to misinterpretation, others have contained outright errors requiring corrections to be sent out to the field stations. Mo one is more anxious than I to lay the foundation and do the spade work now for the implementation of the proposed program of assistance, but we must be judicious in our activities and realize that the Mouse legislation is not yet the law. As you draft cables and other papers that concern assistance for the resistance, please keep in mind that existing prohibitions on direct assistance to the Micaraguan democratic resistance are still in force. If you are authorizing an activity or expenditure of funds, it should be first coordinated with C/CATP who is fully abreast of what is permissible now under existing law and what accivities we can undertake in preparation for implementation of the proposed program of assistance, if and when, it is signed into law by the President. We have come too far to let an oversight or failbre to coordinate fully proposed activities jeopardise all of your hard work.



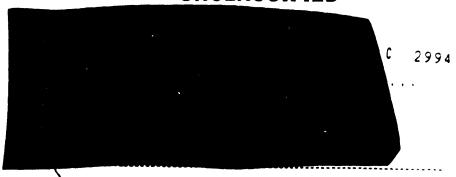




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TOT: 12 OCT 84

DIRECTOR 111894

STAFF 12 DIRECTOR 111894
TO: IMMEDIATE

SUBJECT: INPACT OF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

1. AS ADDRES ARE NO DOUBT AWARE, CONGRESS HAS SPOKEN WITH RECARD TO THE HOWEDIATE FUTURE OF THE FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAM. THE FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIAL TEXT OF THE OPERATIVE LANGUAGE:

A. DURING FISCAL YEAR 1985, NO FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, OR ANY OTHER AGENCY OF ENTITY OF THE UNITED STATES INVOLVED IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES MAY BE OBLIGATED OR EXPENDED FOR THE PURPOSE OR WHICH WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF SUPPORTING, DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS IN MICARAGUA BY ANY NATION, GROUP, ORGANIZATION, MOVEMENT OR INDIVIDUAL.

B. THE PROHIBITION CONCERNING NICARAGUA CONTAINED IN SUBSECTION (A) SHALL CEASE TO APPLY IF, AFTER FEBRUARY 28, 1985--

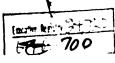
(1) THE PRESIDENT SUBHITS TO CONCRESS A

REPORT --

(A) STATING THAT THE COVERNMENT OF NICARAGUA IS PROVIDING MATERIEL OR HONETARY SUPPORT TO ANTI-COVERNMENT FORCES ENCAGED IN MILITARY OF PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS IN EL SALVADOR OR OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES;

(B) ANALYZING THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF SUCH SUPPORT;

(C) STATING THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DETERMINED THAT ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS PROMIBITED BY SUBSECTION CA) IS NECESSARY:



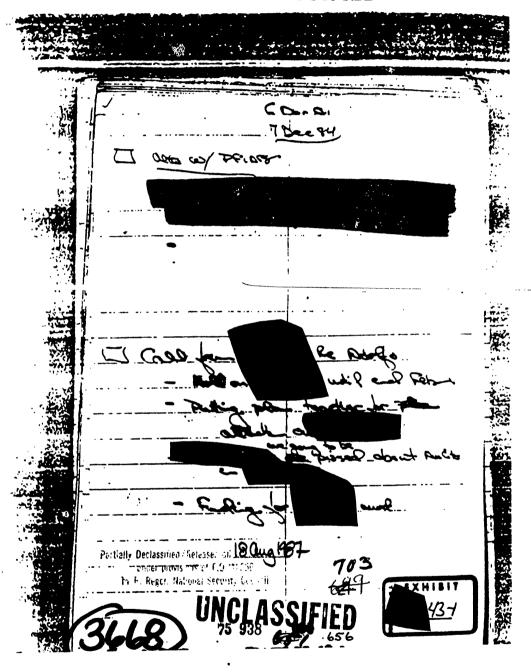
UNCLASSIFIED 2995 PAGE 0002 84 5425029 / 130 OCT 84 DIRECTOR 111894 101: 12 JUSTIFYING THE AMOUNT AND TYPE OF SUCH ASSISTANCE AND (D) DESCRIPING ITS OBJECTIVES; AND (E) EXPLAINING THE GOALS OF UNITED STATES POLICY FOR THE CENTRAL AMERICAN REGION AND HOW THE PROPOSED ASSISTANCE WOULD FURTHER SUCH GOALS, INCLUDING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN CENTRAL AMERICA THROUGH A COMPREMENSIVE, VERIFIABLE AND ENFORCEABLE ACREDIENT BASED UPON THE CONTADORA DOCUMENT OF OBJECTIVES. 2. WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING THE LEGAL READING AS TO WHAT WE CAN AND CANNOT DO LIGHT OF THIS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION. UNTIL SUCH A READING IS OBTAINED ARE TO CEASE AND DESIST WITH ACTIONS WHICH CAN BE CONSTRUED TO BE PROVIDING ANY TYPE SUPPORT EITHER DIRECT OR IMPIRECT TO THE VARIOUS ENTITIES OF ARE, UNTIL FUTHER NOTICE, TO BE SOLELY REPEAT SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING POSITIVE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO WE WILL KEEP ADDEES POSTED ON RELATED DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY OCCUR. PERSONNEL BOTH PCS AND 4. PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL TDY READ AND ACCOMMLEDGE THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE. DECL OADR DRV HUH 4-82. ALL SECRET .> CL. B ORIG: C/LA/CATE C/LA. END OF HESSAGE ** TEMPORARY WORKING COPY -- DESTROY AFTER USE **

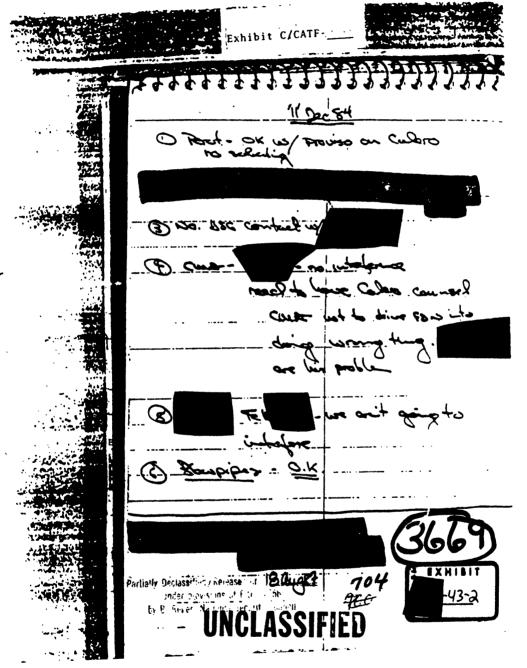
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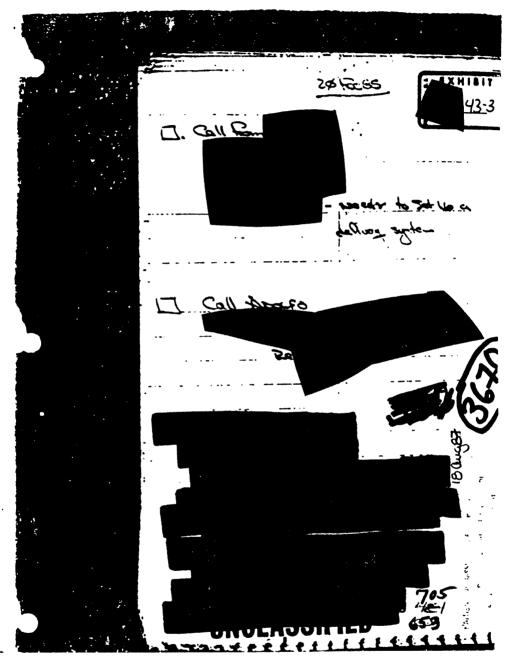
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2996 LING FORFIED CROSSRODAL OUTGOING 84 5478710 TOT: 15 OCT 84 DIRECTOR 119255 DIRECTOR 119255 SUBJECT? 1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT OF A STATEMENT READ OF THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD BY CONGRESSMAN BOLAND CONCERNING THE FY-84 APPROPRIATIONS BILL: "LET ME MAKE VERY CLEAR THAT THIS PROHIBITION APPLIES TO ALL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1985 REGARDLESS OF ANY ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE AT ANY AGENCY. IT, CLEARLY PROHIBITS ANY EXPENDITURE, INCLUDING THOSE FROM ACCOUNTS FOR SALARIES AND ALL SUPPORT COSTS. THE PROHIBITION IS SO STRICTLY WRITTEN THAT IT ALSO PROHIBITS TRANSFERS OF EQUIPMENT ACQUIRED AT NO COST. "TO REPEAT, THE COMPROMISE PROVIDION CLEARLY ENDS U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE WAR IN NICARAGUA. SUCH SUPPORT CAN ONLY BE RENEWED IF THE PRESIDENT CAN CONVINCE THE CONGRESS THAT THIS VERY STRICT PROHIBITION SHOULD BE OVERTURNED." 2. WE PASS ON THIS PIECE OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORY IN ORDE TO IMPRESS UPON ADDEES THE FULL INTENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION OF THE RESULTANT "RESTRICTIONS UNDER WHICH WE MUST GOVERN ALL "WE ARE GOING TO BE UNDER VERY CLOSE SCRUTINY ON THIS QUESTION AND WE MUST TAKE EVERY PRECAUTION TO ENDURE THAT WE ARE NOT IN VIOLATION OF CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION EITHER FACT OR IN SPIRIT. SECRET !> D
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(SUBSTANCE); REL: C/LA/CATF. DECL OAD DRV HUM 4-82. ALL AUTH: C/LA/CATE; COORD: DDO/LEGAL END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED Letia 4 732

Exhibit C/CATF-43-1







Document

Exhibit 43-4

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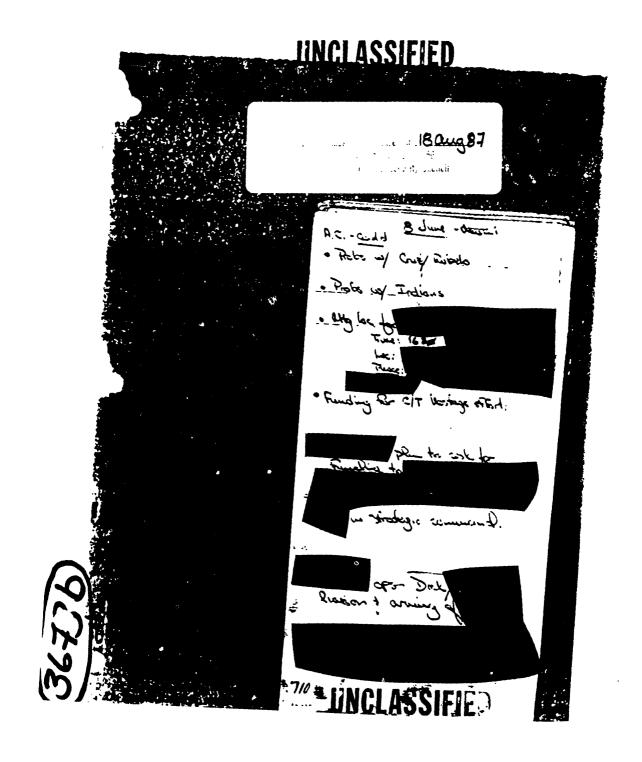
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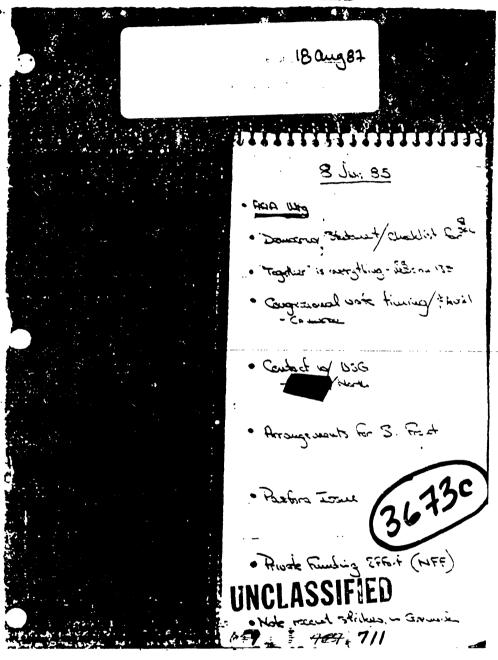
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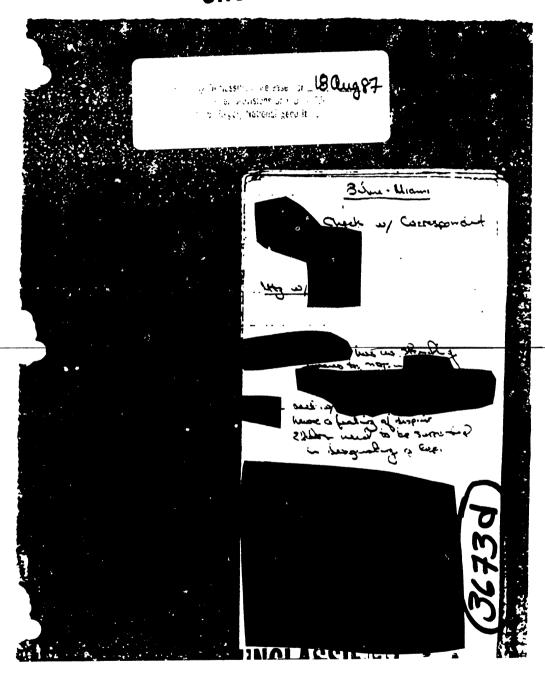
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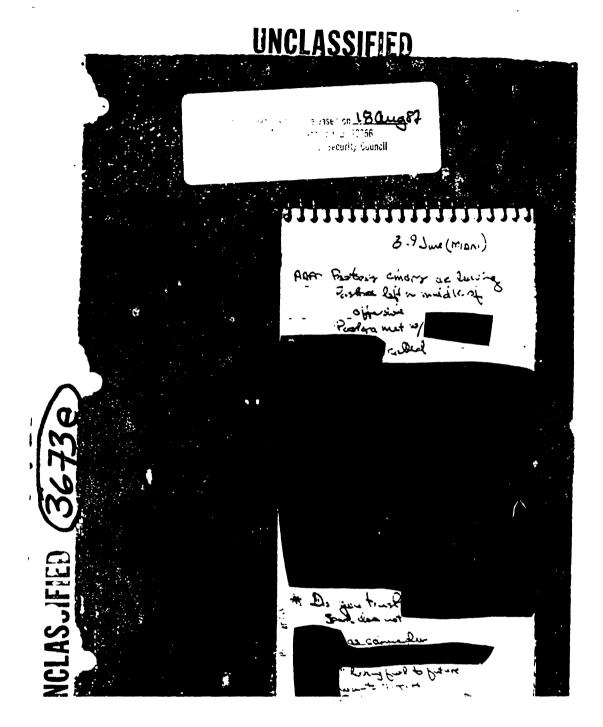
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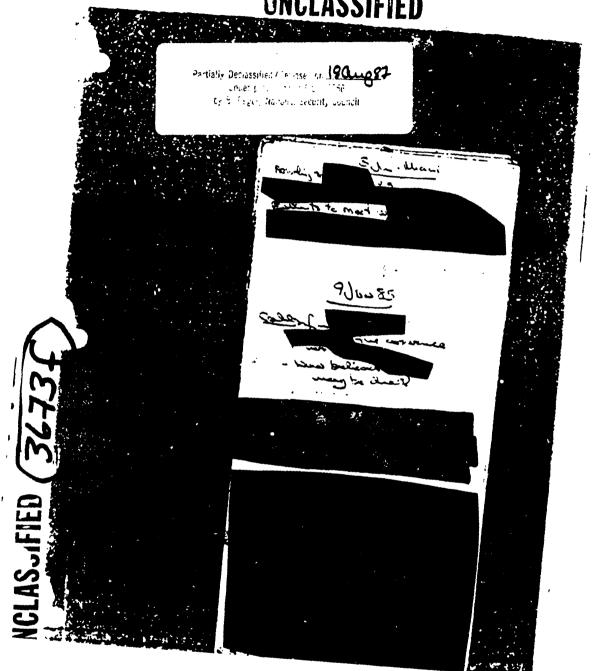




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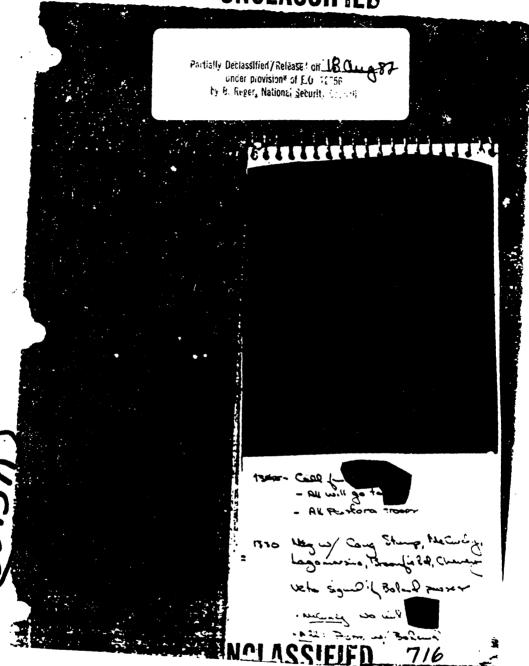


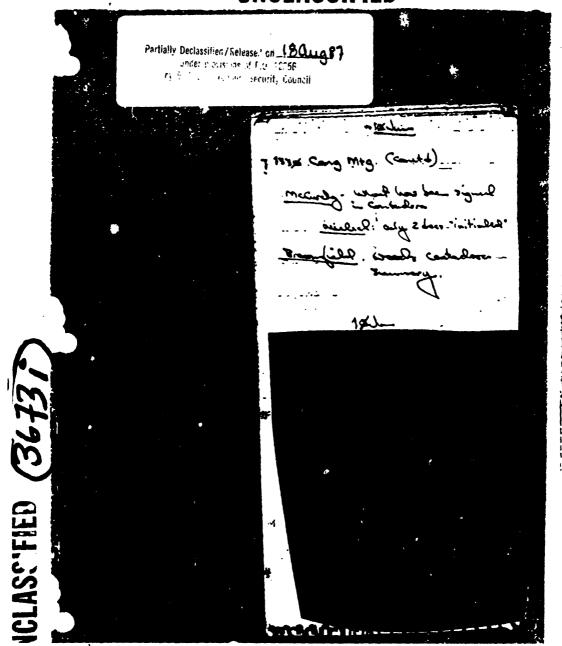




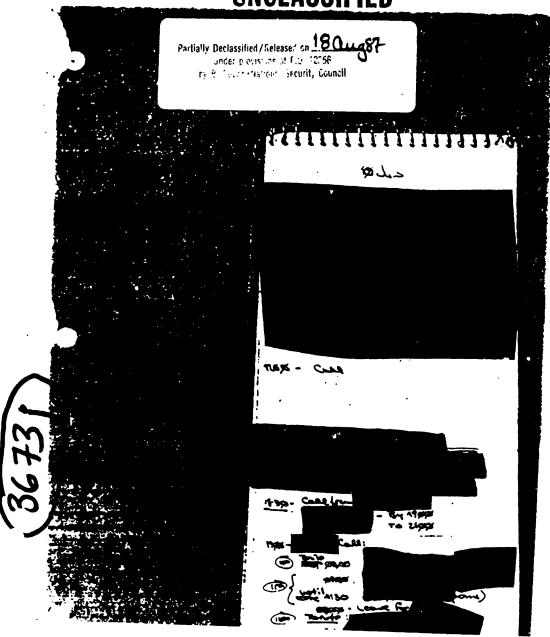
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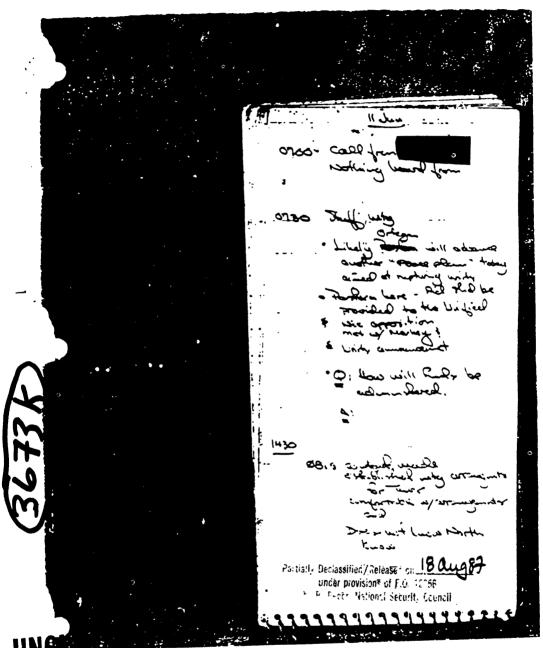




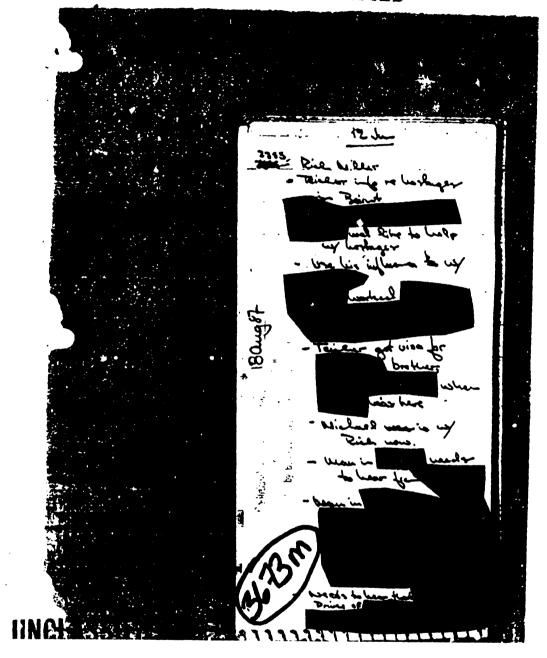


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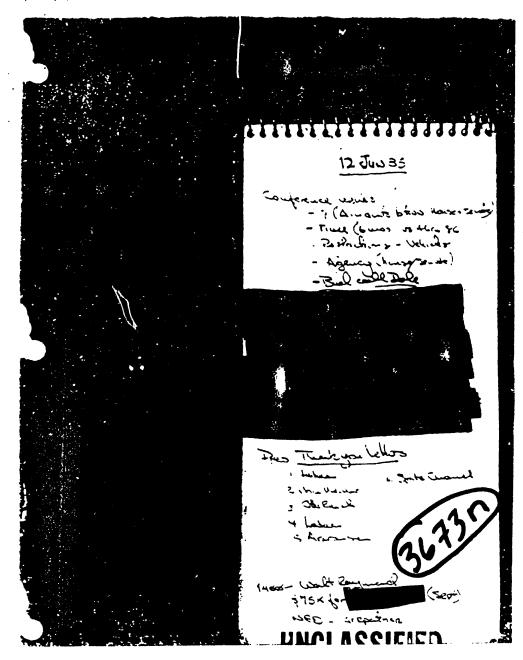




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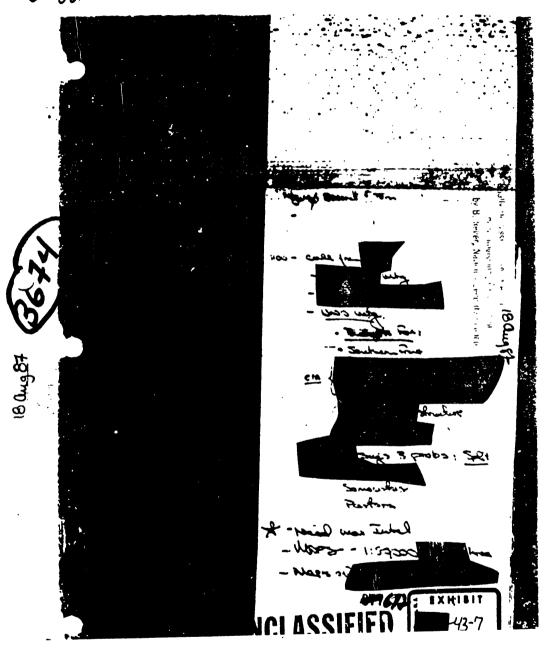
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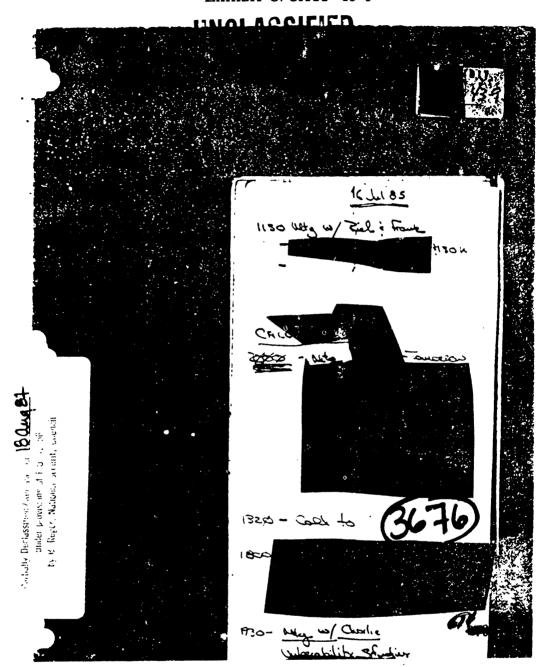
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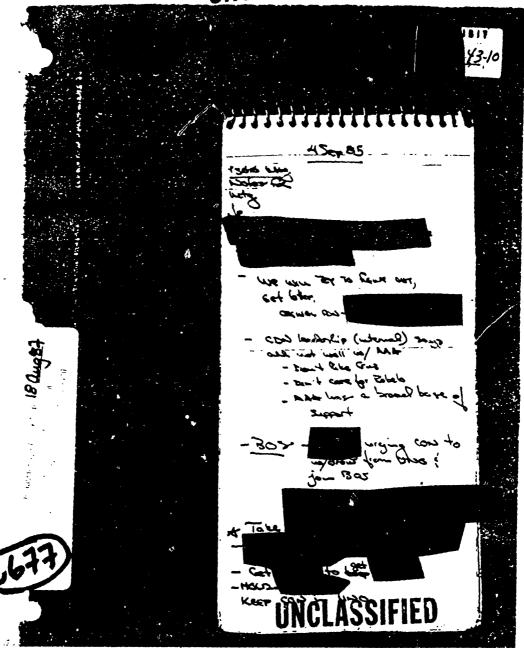
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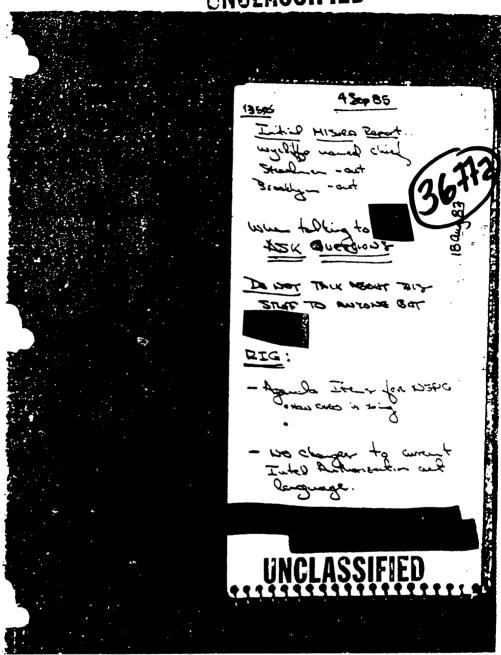
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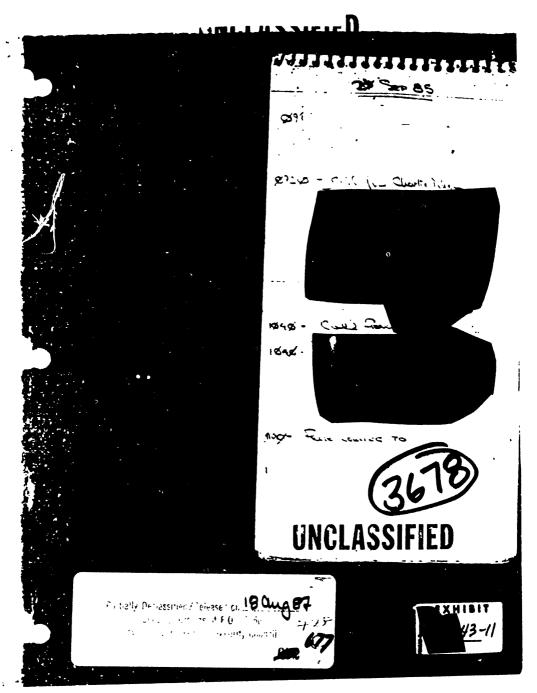
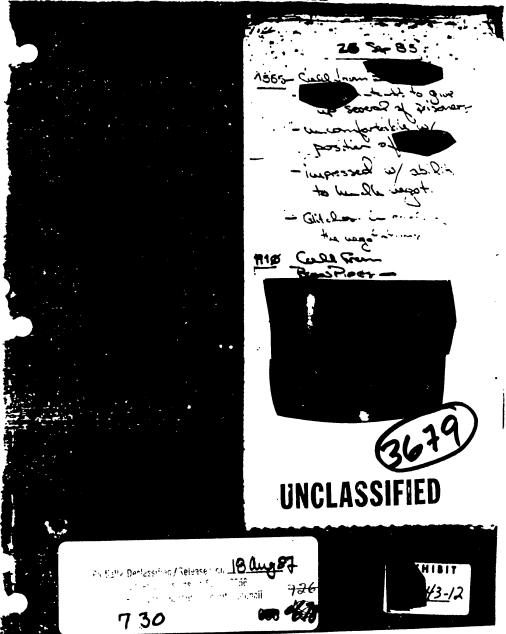


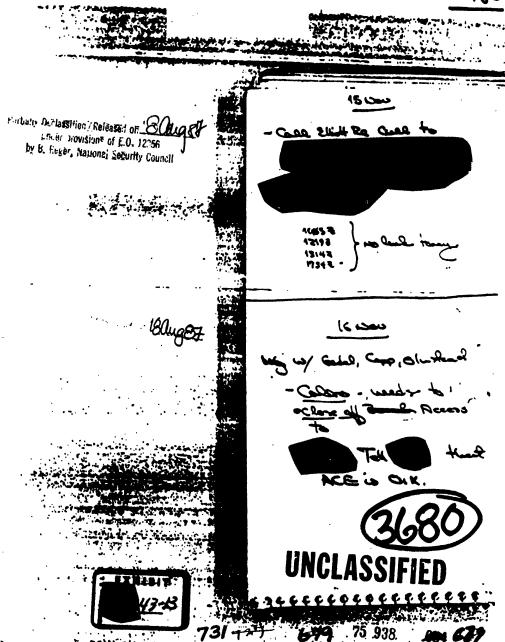
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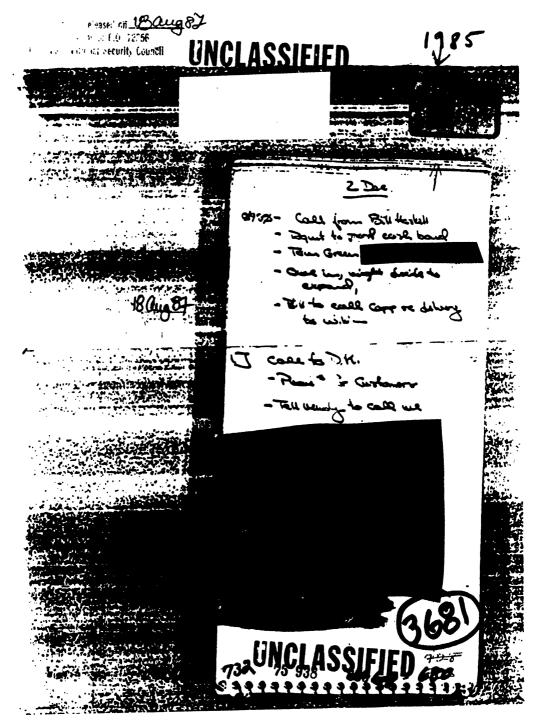
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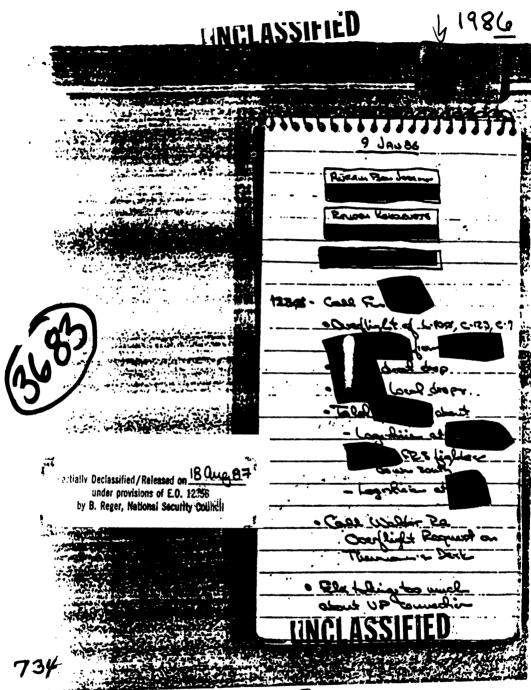
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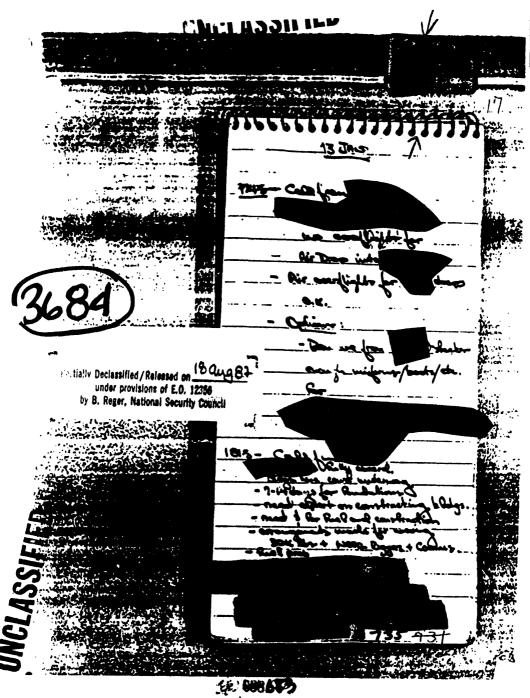


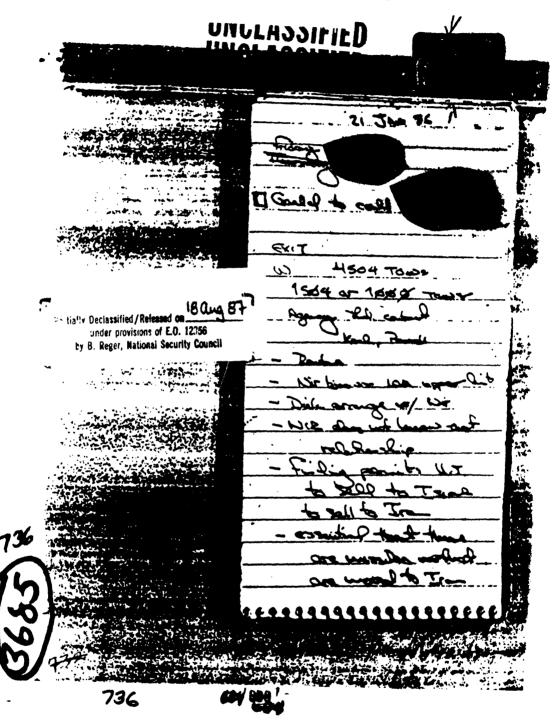
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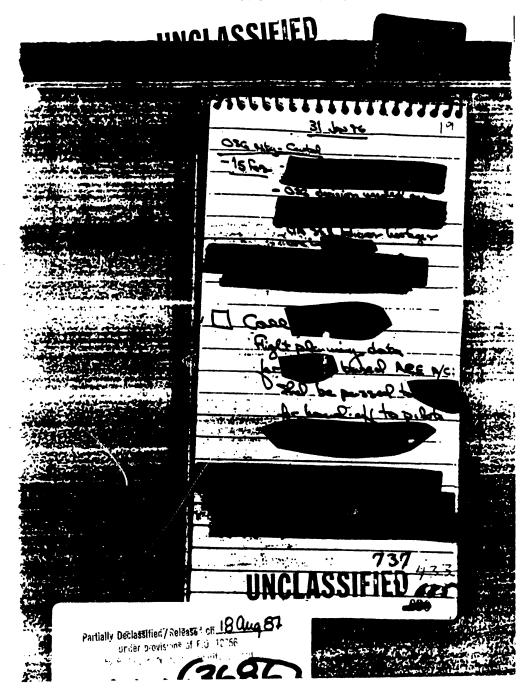
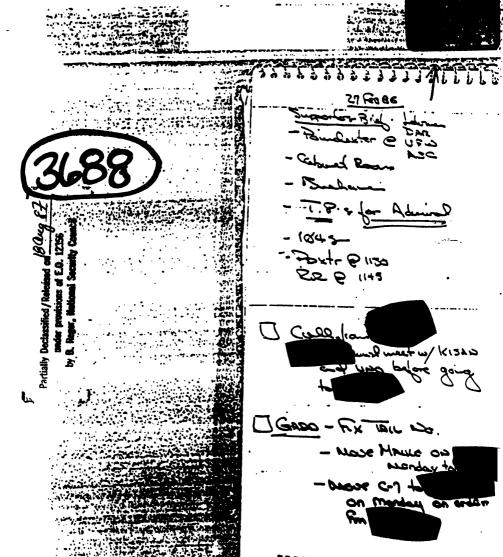


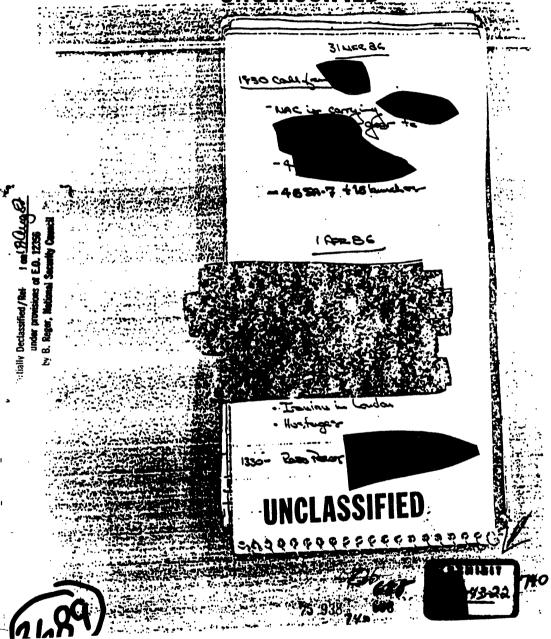
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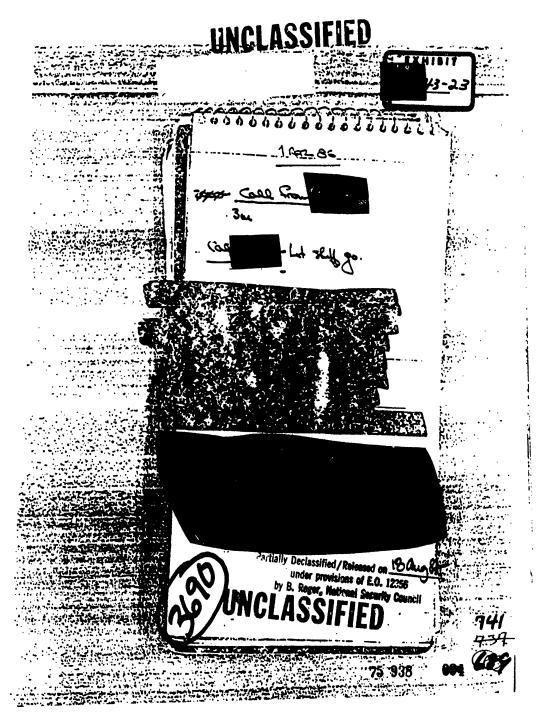
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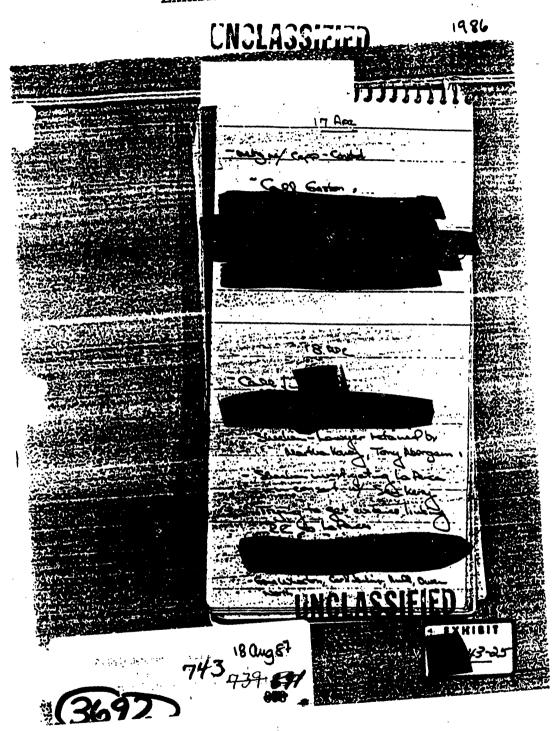
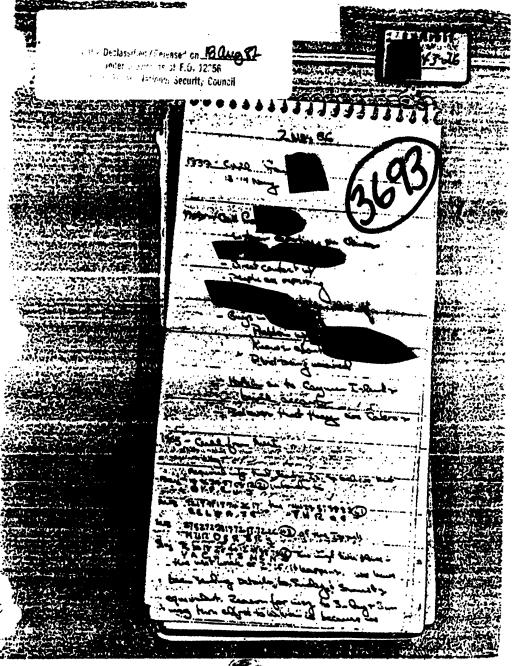


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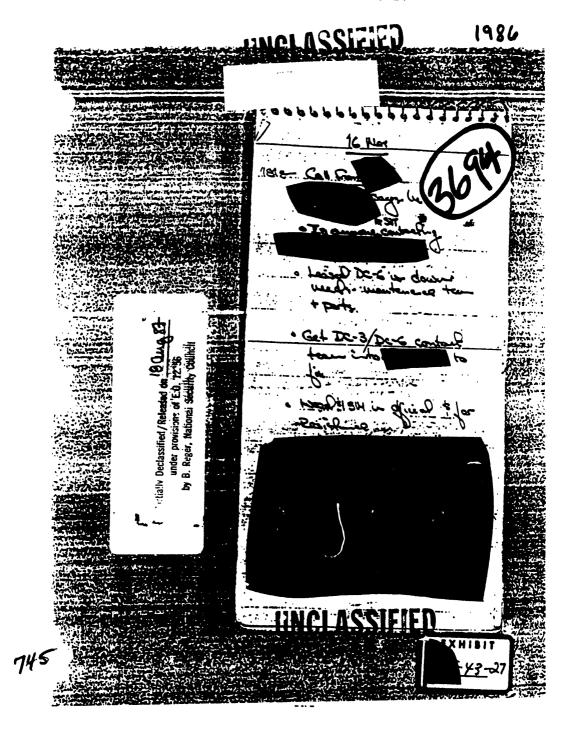


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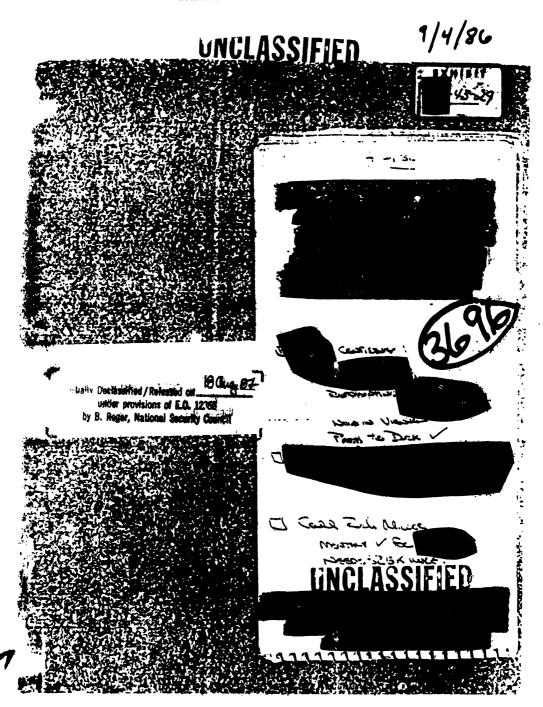


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Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT:

eged Purchase of Arms on Schalf of the C.I.A.

for Shipment to

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

2. In early January 1985 a representative of "Transamerican Limited," a Canadian arms trading company in Montreal. shipment to Among the items purchasing arms for missiles (at US\$ 32,000 each), 1,000 each). 1.75 million rounds of 7.62x15 amountion and 100 75MM recoils strikes.

buying the material of behalf of an American named Richard Secor, a retired U.S. Armya contral.

Secor heavily implied that he was making the purchases for the Central Intelligence Agency.

policy prohibiting arms exports to The "Transamerica" representative organisation, that

any Central American country. end-user certificates. accepted. the arms were airshipped to ______in late January for this purchase came from either the Sahamas or Cay

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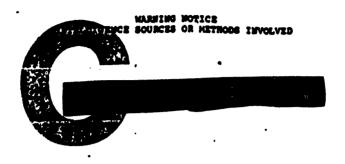
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by B. Reger, National Security Council

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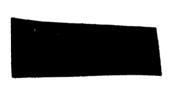




 (Readquarters Comment: The Central Intelligence Agency is not in contact with Richard Secor, who is a retired Air Force Major General.)

/1/

Clair E. George y Director for Operations





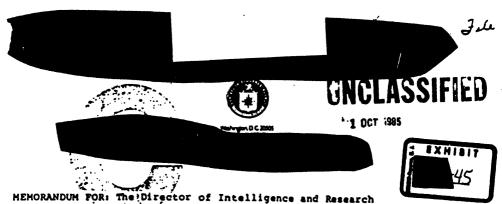
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EXHIBIT C/CATF-45



MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Intelligence and Research
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Director, National Security Agency
Special Assistant to the President for

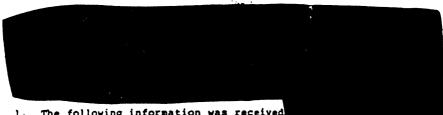
National Security Affairs National Security Council

SUBJECT:

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Plans for Improvement of United Nicaraguan Opposition/Nicaraguan Democratic Force Aerial Resupply Capability

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE



The following information was received

2. As part of a continuing effort to improve its ability to resupply units of the denocratic opposition operating inside-Nicaragua, the United Nicaraguan Opposition/Nicaraguan Democratic Force (UNO/FDN), working through private supporters in the United States, has contracted for the services of two C-7A Caribouraircraft to fly supply missions into Nicaragua. The contract, which is of six months' duration, calls for the two aircraft to fly hours per month. The contractor will supply pilots, crews indirectantics. which will be stationed two Caribou aircraft are expected to arri

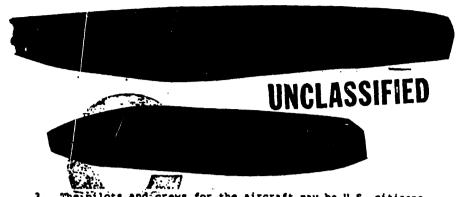
during October 1985:

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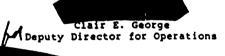
3. The pilots and crews for the aircraft may be U.S. citizens, but if so, they will not be identified as such. They, and all other personnal associated with the project, will be confined to the two aircraft will be equipped with sophisticated navigation equipment which will allow them to make night drops into Nicaragua. UNO/FDN has procured night vision devices to assist the pilots on their missions.

4. Comment: The establishment of a viable system to resupply units in Nicaragua is a top priority for UNO/FDN. The resistance organization has shown its ability to purchase and move arms and material to but has met with very limited success in getting these supplies to the combatants in Nicaragua.

The added capability of these two aircraft -- each can carry; 6,000 pounds of cargo, fly at a normal speed of 180 miles per hour, and has a range of 1300 miles --would be a significant advance in the UNO/FDN logistics system, and would allow aerial resupply to units

On the other cide or the coin, UNO/FDN will have to take steps to greatly increase the security of its communications with those units to be resupplied.)

5. This information is being made available to the U.S. Ambassadors to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command, and to the Commander, First Special Operations Command. No further distribution is being made.







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Exhibit C/CATF-46



EMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Intelligence and Research
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
Director, National Security Agency Director, Detentional Security Agency
Director, National Security Agency
Director, National Security Affairs
National Security Council

SUBJECT:

Nicaragua: Plans for Improvement of UNO/FDN Aerial Resupply Capability

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE The following information was traceived

2. As of early November 1985, the Unified Nicaraguan
Opposition/Nicaraguan Democratic Force (UNO/FDN) was still working
on plans to improve its ability to-resupply UNO/FDN units operating
inside Nicaragua. UNO/FDN had been expecting the arrival in October
of two C-7A Caribou aircraft to fill this requirement, but problems
in obtaining the two aircraft have delayed their arrival (Headquarters Comment octobes , provided information on the planned acquisition of the C-7A aircraft.) Working through privater supporters in the United States, UNO/FDM has obtained in the contract for the rental of two C-123 "Provider" transport aircraft and crews, which are expected to arrive in Movember dated 1

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by B. Reger, National Security Council Council

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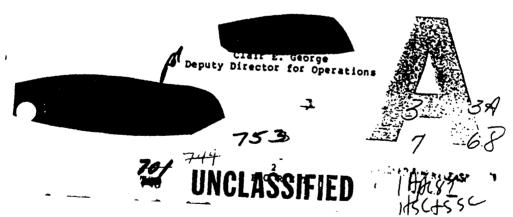
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fly a combined total of hours per month for a duration of six months. The contractor will supply pilots, crews, and mechanics; normal maintenance will be performed outside. The two The six-month contract cost US\$450,000.

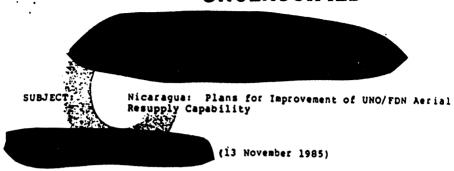
3. As was the case with the C-7A aircraft, the pilots and crews may be U.S. citizens, but if so, they will not be identified as such. They, and all other personnel associated with the project, will be confined or to any other remote airfield where they may operate. UNO/FDN has in stock two night vision devices which will be issued to the C-123 pilots for their night-time

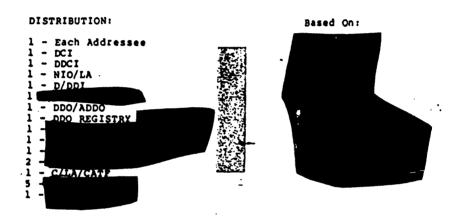
comment: Pinding away to resupply its units deep the arrival of the C-7A's was a setback. The C-123 "Provider" is an contracted for should go a long way toward solving the resupply civilian DC-2 to make night drops to UNO/FDN units in have the most up-to-date navigational fequipment, nor does its crew standard C-123 "Provider" can carry about 8,000 pounds of cargo and fly at a normal speed of 200 miles per hour.)

5. This information is being made available to the U.S.
Ambassadors
to the Commander in Chief, U.S. Southern Command. No further



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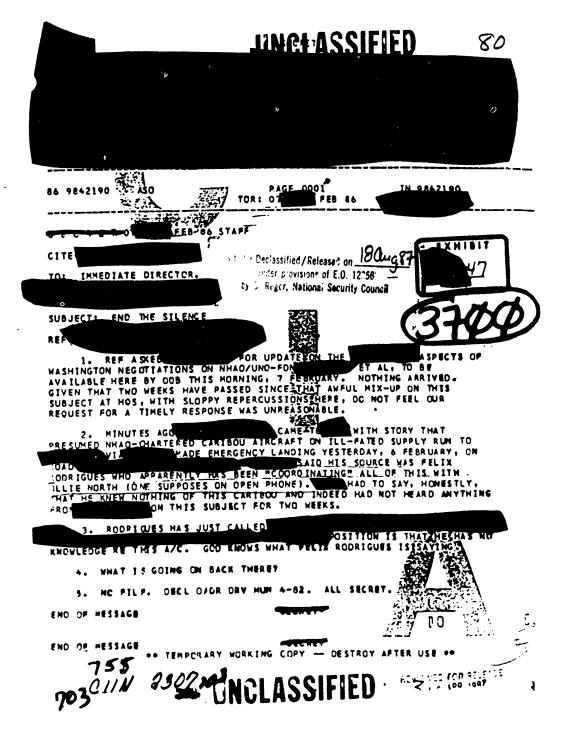




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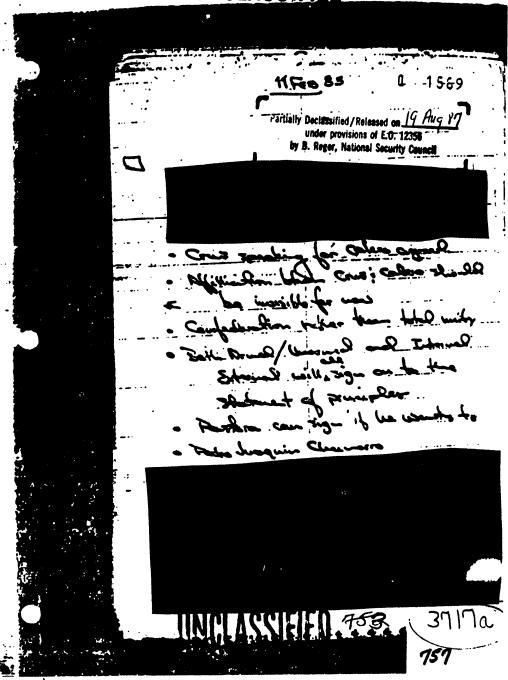
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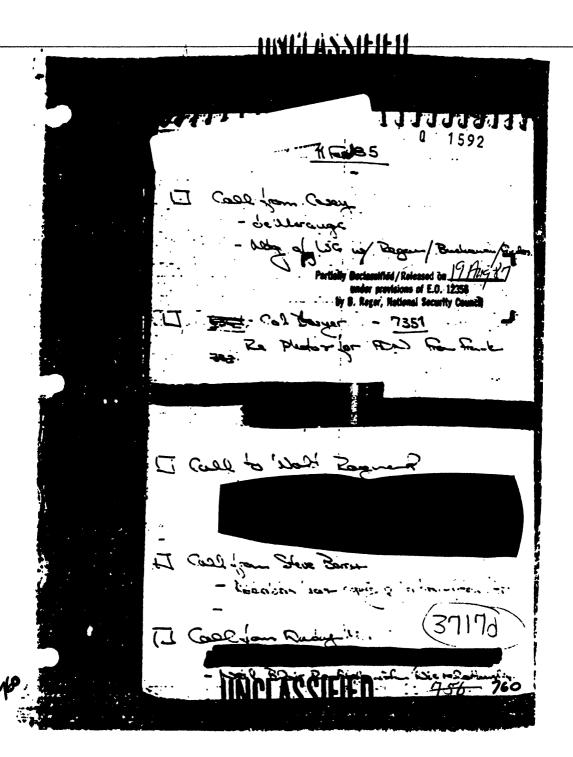
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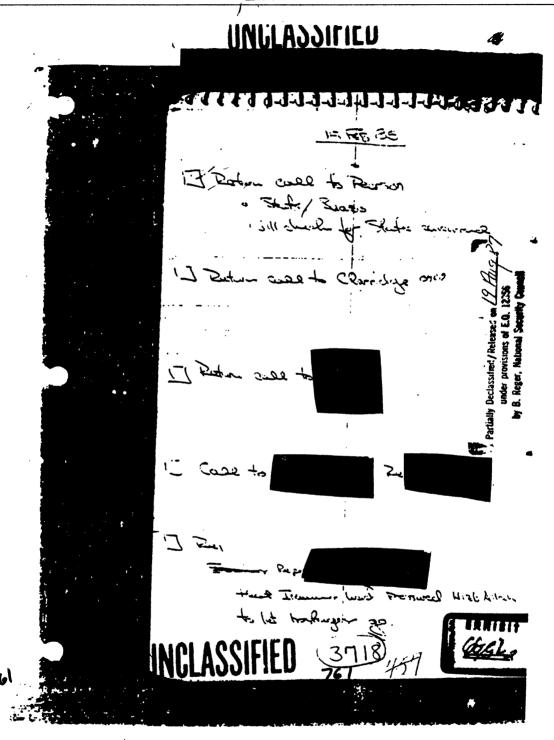
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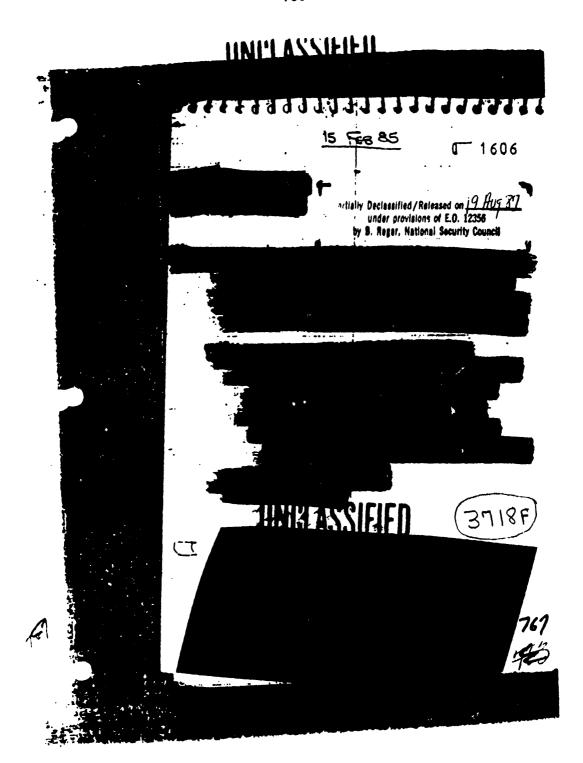
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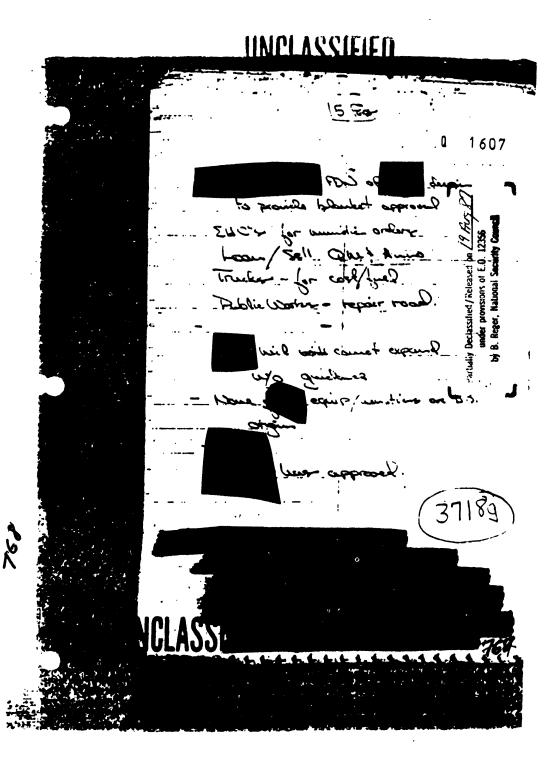
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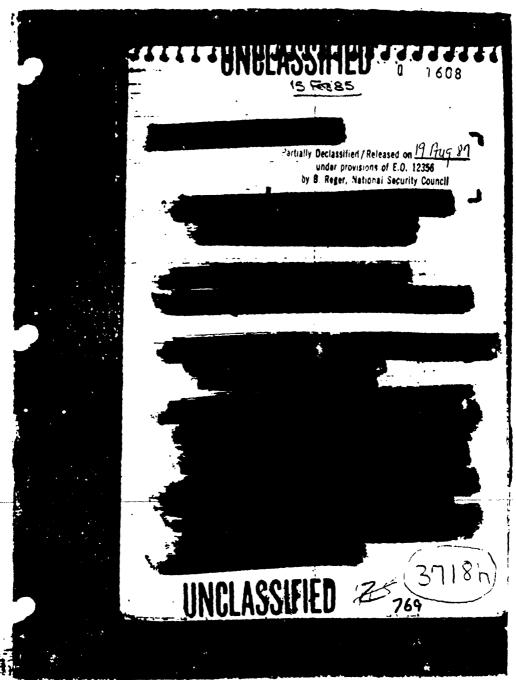
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B. Reger, National Security Council

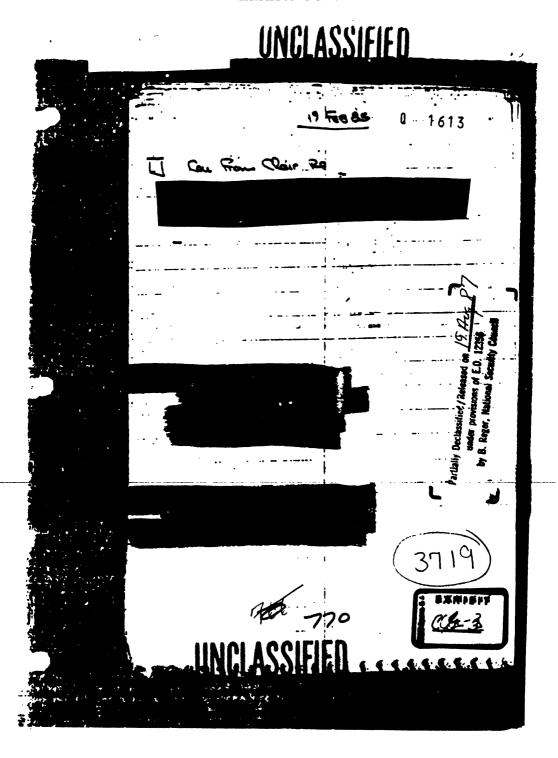
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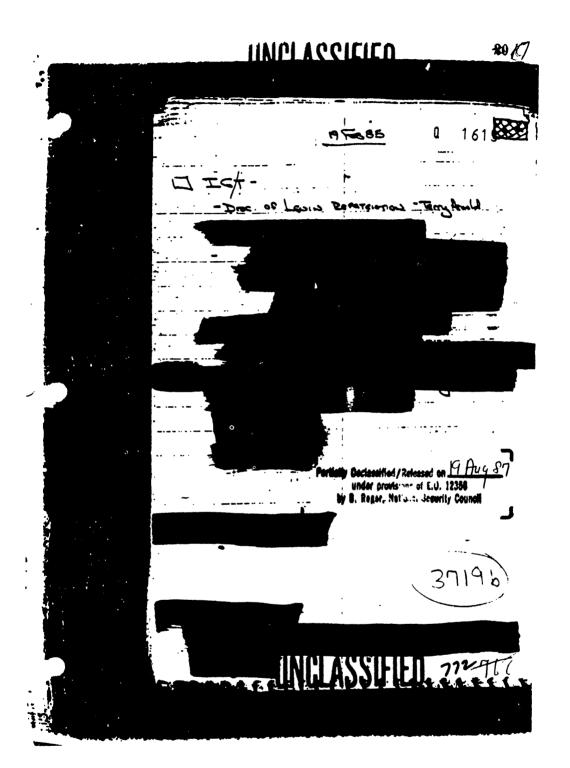


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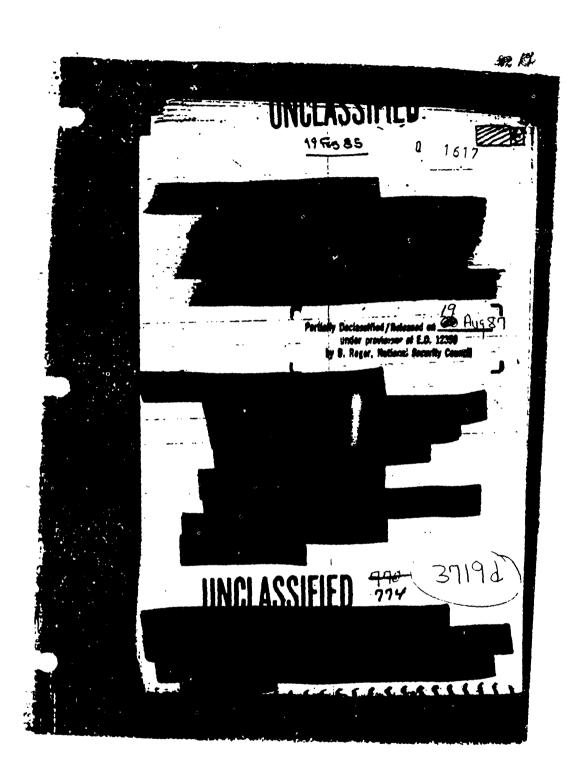


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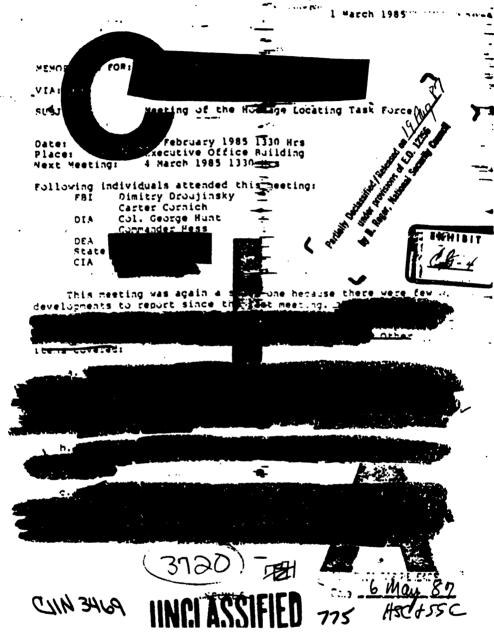
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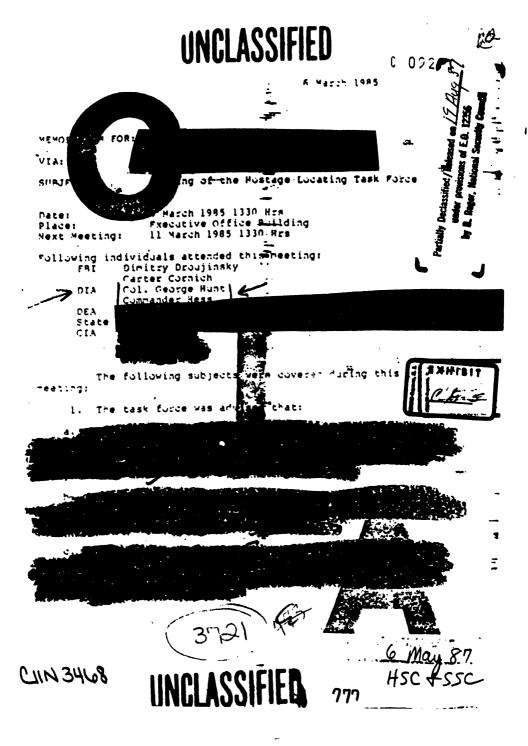
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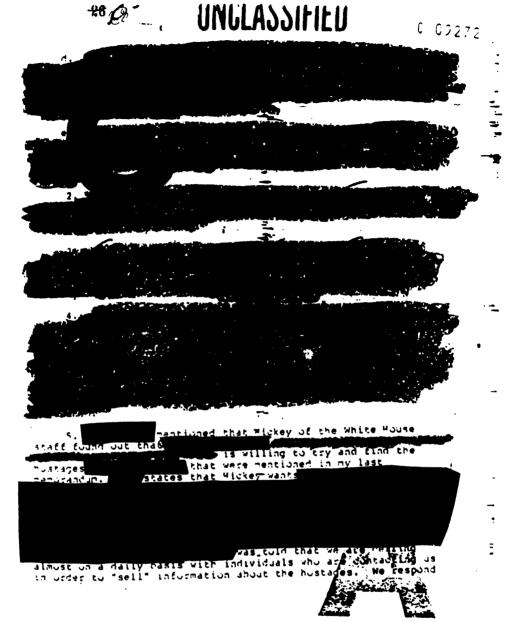
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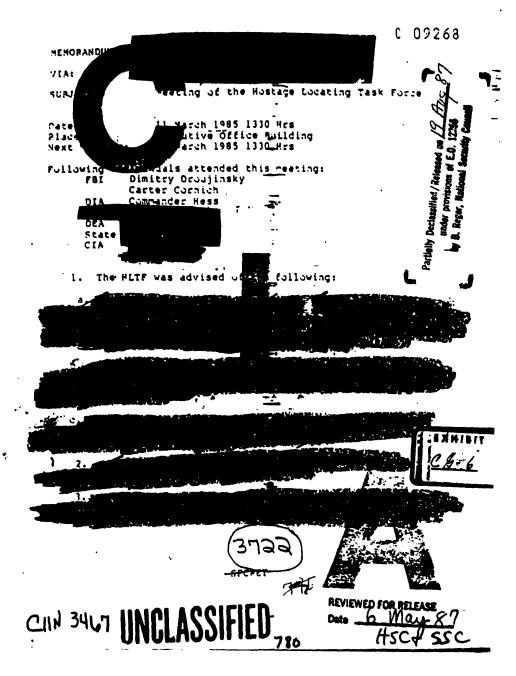
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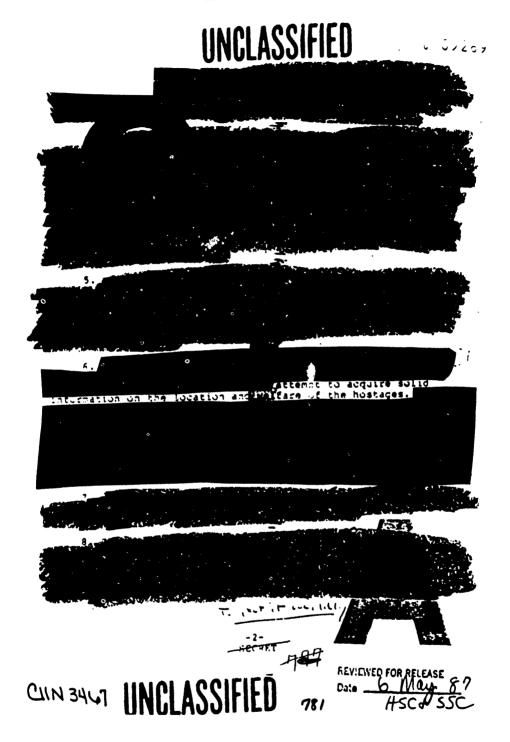
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13 March 1985



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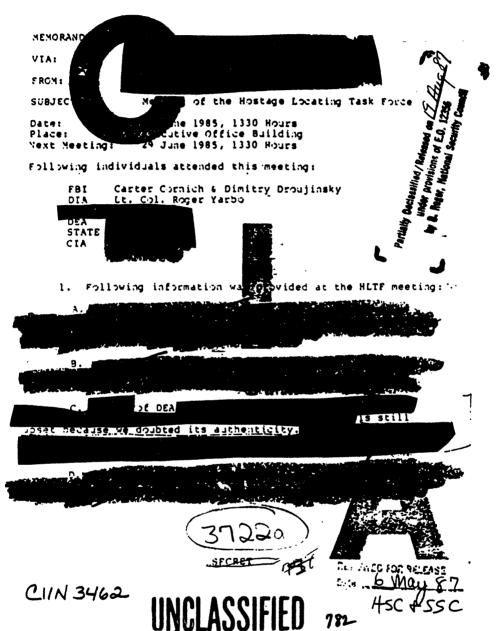


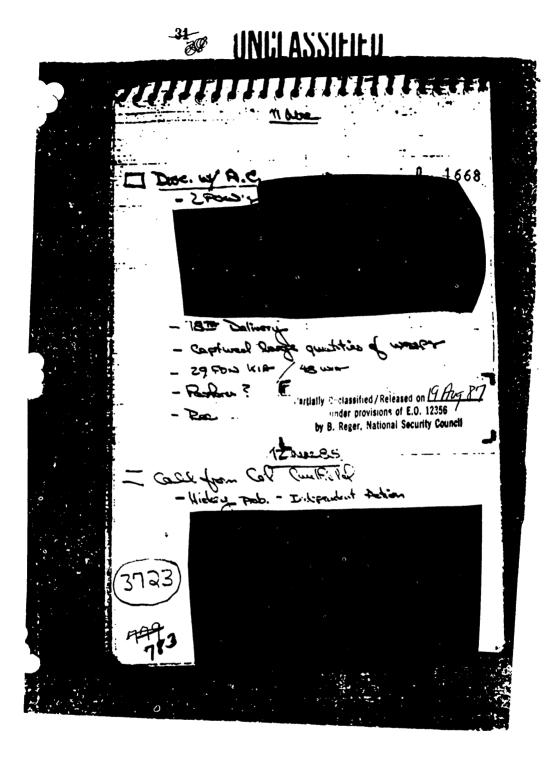
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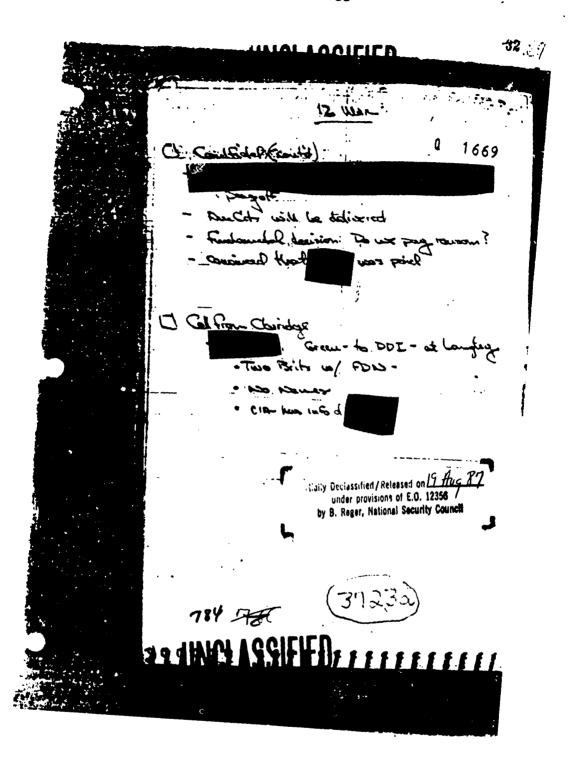
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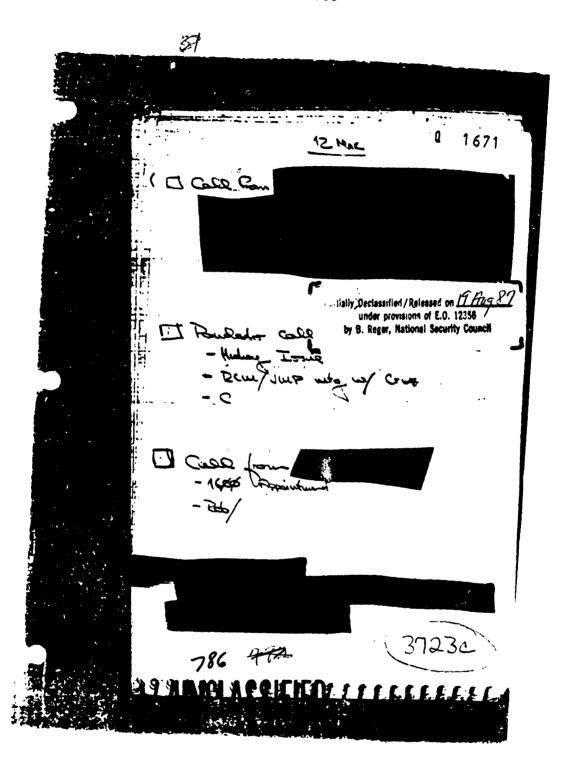
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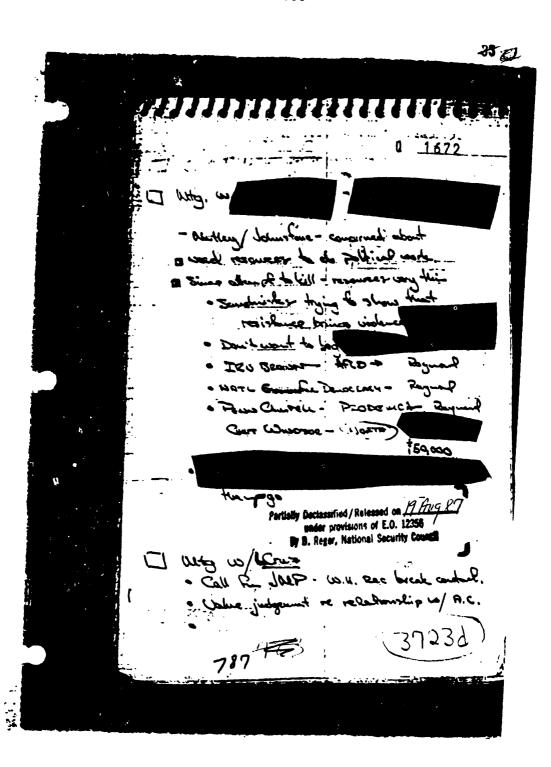




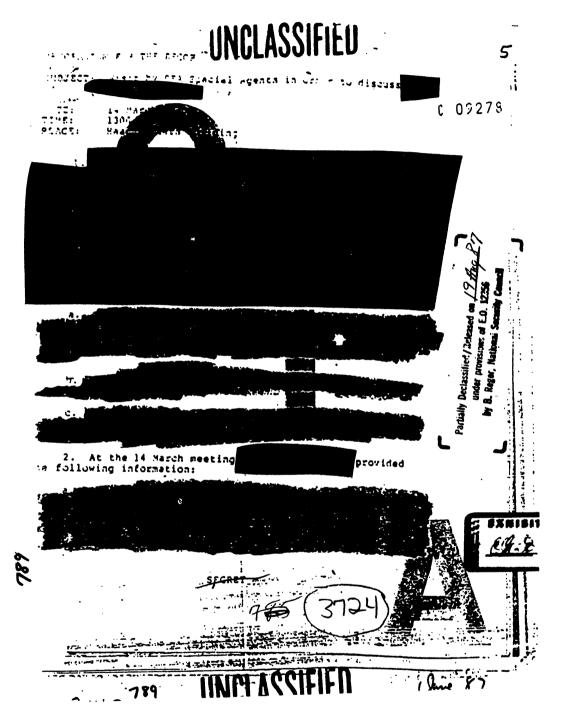


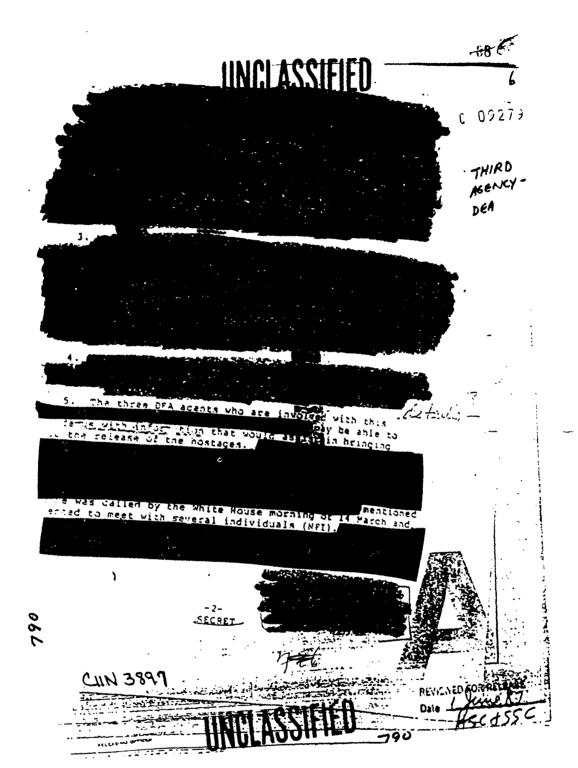
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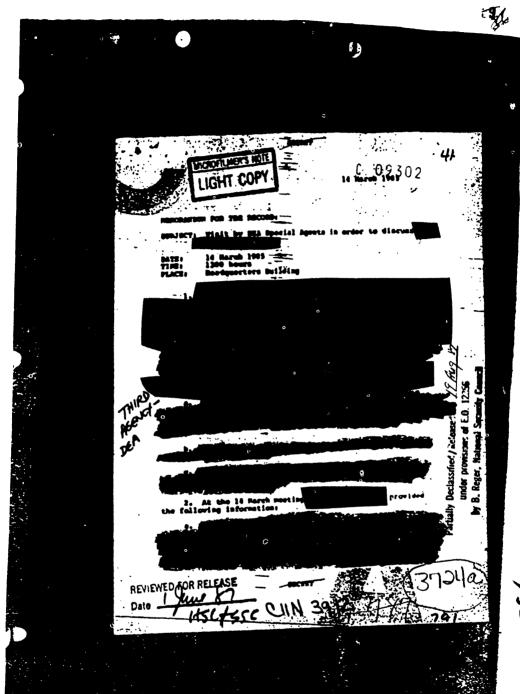




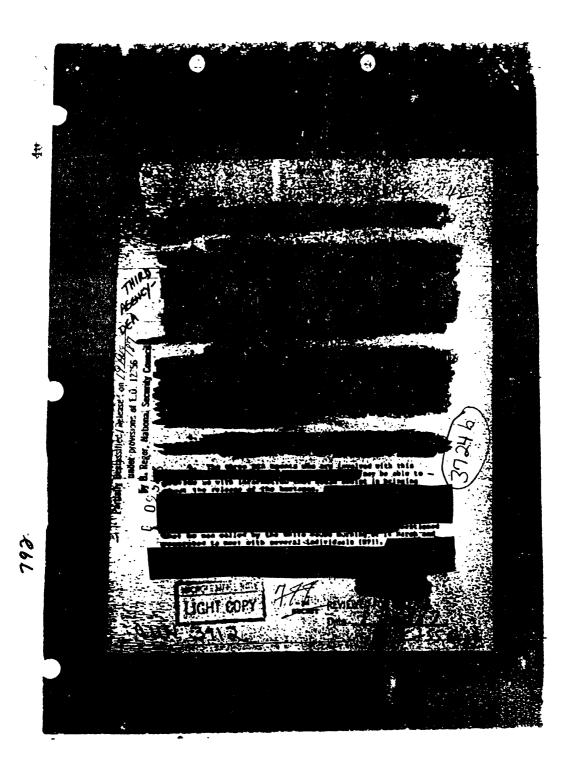
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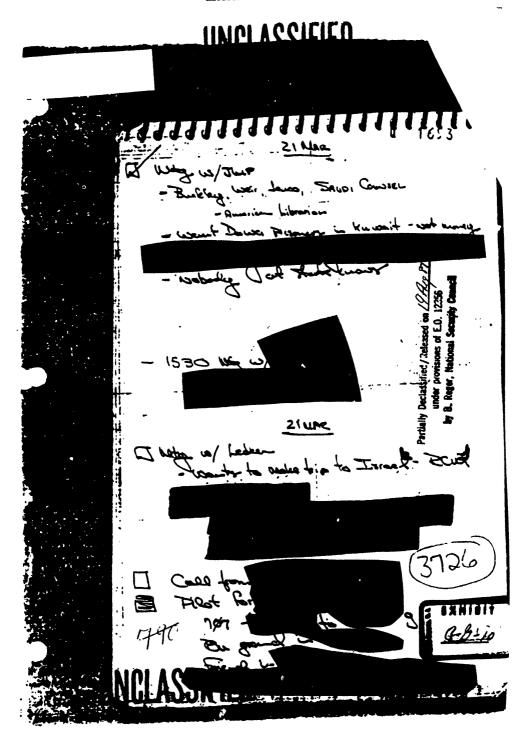


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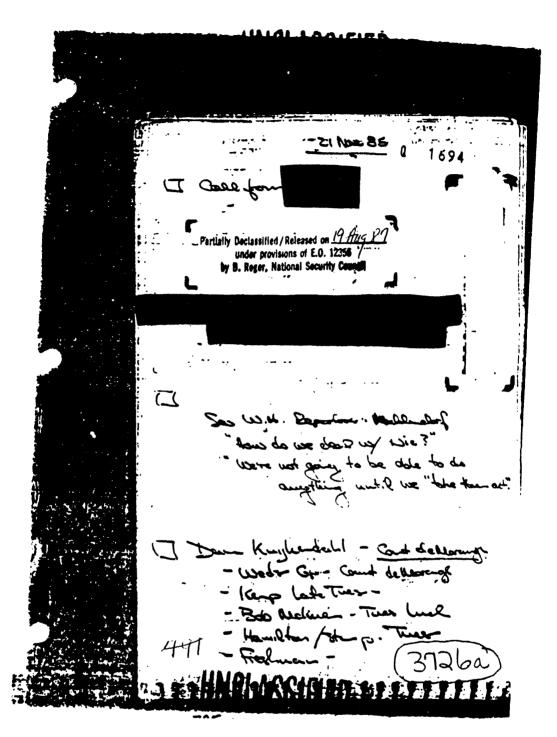


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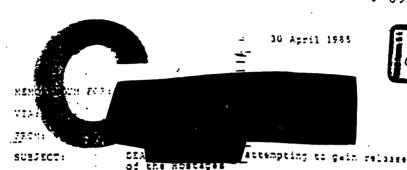
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EXMISIT



HLTF, visited Hadquarters and met with the main objective of this meeting was to advise us that on 25 April he.

Hickey to meet with Lt. Col. Offic North so they might brief him on the activitie to the activitie to the activitie to the activitie to the head of the activity, so much so that he has already received a commitment from an unidentified businessman who agreed to put to the one million dollars needed for the final payoral if an when the hostages are turned over to us.

It is a presentative to the final payoral is activity to the one million dollars needed for the final payoral if an when the hostages are turned over to us.

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It is a presentative to the final payoral is an when the hostages are turned over to us.

It is a presentative to the final payoral activity to the presentation and the unidentified benefactor is Ross Perot). Over the weekers, was told by North that the DEO should be advised that a businessman has agreed to pay the one million dollars.

representatives on 25 April, they were called in by the DEA Deputy Director who is monitoring this case. This Deputy Director made it perfectly clear that DEA should not be involved in this type of operation but are cooperating only because there is a possibility that they can assist in the release of the hostages. Stated that there is bad blood between North and DEA because of a problem North created for DEA lastiyear which had to do with a DEA operation that involved Nicaracua. The Deputy Director told both that the hostages and no action will be taken without his approval.

and that he will not authorize any portion of the 31,200,000 be paid unless CIA is satisfied with the bona fides he provides and CIA agrees that we are ready to love ahead with this operation.

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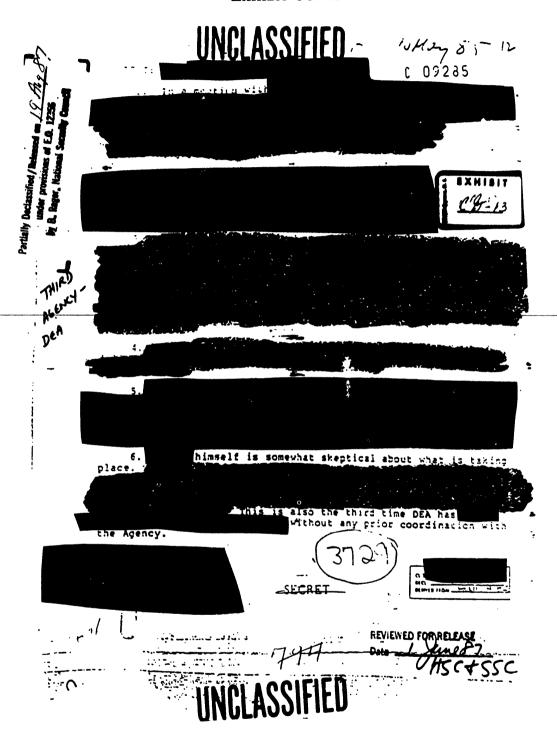


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MEMORANDUM

SYSTEM IV NSC/ICS-400554

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

May 24, 1985

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ACTION

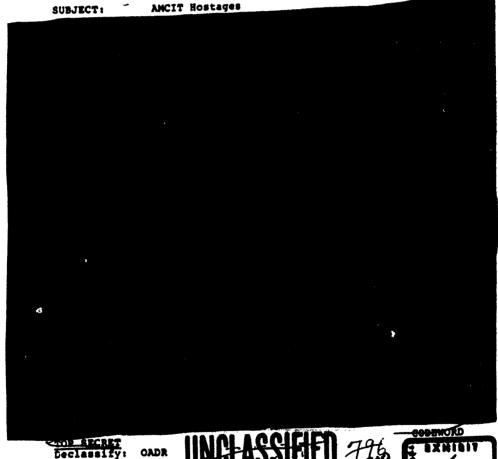
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MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

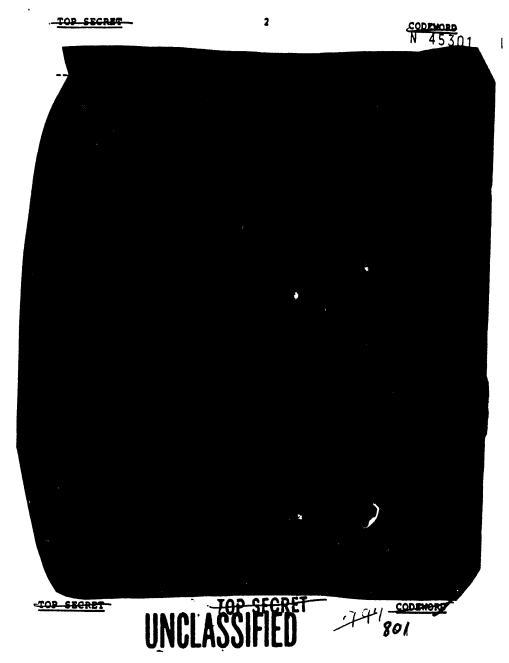
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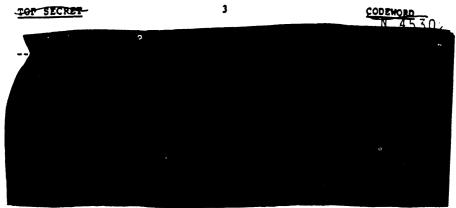
OLIVER L. NORTH

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DEA. The DEA contact has indicated that for \$4M in bribes the Americans can be spirited out they will be turned over to the U.S. Their contact has proposed a scenario by which he would be provided with \$200K in cash to start the process. \$1.5M would be placed in a Swiss bank account-payable to completed. The second two Americans were released to U.S. hands. The second two Americans would be turned over as soon as a second \$2M was placed in the Swiss account.

The CIA became aware of this proposal in general some weeks ago when the DEA rep to the HLTF described the contact which had been made in Lebanon. Since that time, two DEA officers have met in Cyprus with their contact

- Their source needs to establish the credibility of the offer with the \$200K. The source has been told that if he "double-crosses" the DEA and does not produce for the \$200K that he will be exposed in Lebanon as a USG asset. The source is aware of the consequences of such revelation.
- Only the \$200K is placed at risk if the operation is not credible. According to the DEA, there are who must be bribed in order to implement the safe recovery described above. Thus, the higher cost than was originally forecast.

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success. The (Azzam) on the for a bribe w	A plan, appear two DEA office plan since he which he feels oncerned that the \$200K tha	to have an ears have not e has resiste would likely	briefed their d the use of leak when bri ressional com	hance of Superior USG money efed by the mittees are another CIA
RECOMMENDATIO				
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\$200K to the	authorize me to DEA officers fo	o transfer the or initiating	e privately po the plan des	rovided
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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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3 June 1985 C 09230



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Daputy Assistant to the Energiese for Nutland's Section Assass
The White House

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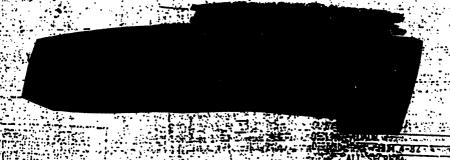
1. The HLTF met on 3 June 1985.

CH-16

developments during the passive

apparent additional results

here were few



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TO Name and Address Date Initials

Robert McFerlane

Robert McFerlane

A CTION FILE
APPROVAL INFORMATION
COMMENT PREPARE REPLY
CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDATION
DIRECT REPLY RETURN

cc: Oliver North (#2 and 3)

SIGNATURE

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MEMORANDUM

SYSTEM IV NSC/ICS-400587

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

June 7, 1985

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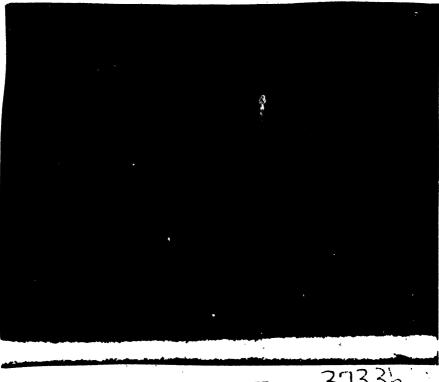
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OLIVER L. NORTH

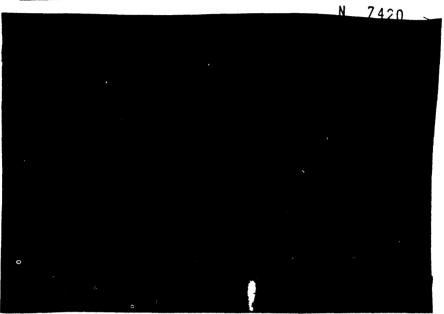
Status of Hostage Recovery Efforts

The two independent hostage recovery activities briefed last Saturday have proceeded as follows:



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DEA operation. At the request of the two DEA officers who originated the contact in Lebanon, I met with their asset in Washington. Last week, their intermediary expressed concern with proceeding with the operation based on the instability inside Lebanon. In response to their urgings (the DEA officers were made aware of the possibility that the Dawa prisoners could be executed shortly after the end of Ramadan--June 19) and the death of one of his contacts inside Lebanon, he has now agreed to proceed as follows:

- -- He will depart Saturday, June 8, and meet a contact in Europe as well as a secondary contact inside Lebanon. He will urge return to Lebanon and arrange for a meeting on Cyprus among one DEA officer himself, and
- Once contact has been established and a meeting arranged, the two DEA officers will depart for Cyprus via Vienna where they will deposit the \$200K and establish an account for the \$2H (\$500K of which will be available immediately in U.S. dollars cash for use in Lebanon).

 will then proceed to the meeting indicated above.

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INTASSFIEL EYES ONLY

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-- The primary DEA contact believes that the hostages can be bribed free for \$1M a piece as follows:

The \$200K will be sufficient to bribe the This money will be passed

.

will turn over the hostages to who will transport

Lhen

- Transport will cost in excess of \$250K apiece in order to bribe

believes that the \$200K in cash will be sufficient to establish bona fides to to agree to passage of at least 2 hostages. Once the operation is underway and the hostages are through will be provided with \$500K in cash.

will turn the hostages over to where the will be placed aboard a rented yacht for transport to Cyprus.

- One of the DEA officers will have proceeded to Cyprus to rent a safehouse as a temporary holding location in the event that all hostages are not recovered in the first attempt.
- The remaining \$1.5M made available by the donor will be released from the account in Vienna as soon as the hostages are aboard the yacht and at sea These funds will be used to pay the

It is assumed that the price cannot be negotiated down given the number of people requiring bribes. Both the DEA and believe that this effort will produce two hostages and that additional hostages will be released for \$1M each. The safehouse will be used to harbor/treat the first two hostages while arrangements (both financial and operational) are being made for the remaining hostages. Delieves that 72-96 hours would be required for a second round. This assumes that additional funding is available on a near real-time basis. The donor is aware that the price being asked is \$1M each. He is unaware that we are proceeding with a plan to release only two if the price does not come down.

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EYES ONLY

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The DEA officers are prepared to take leave as soon as they are contacted by Travel arrangements and operational costs are currently being financed from funds normally available to the Nicaraguan resistance. Our normal point-of-contact in the resistance for these matters is not yet aware.

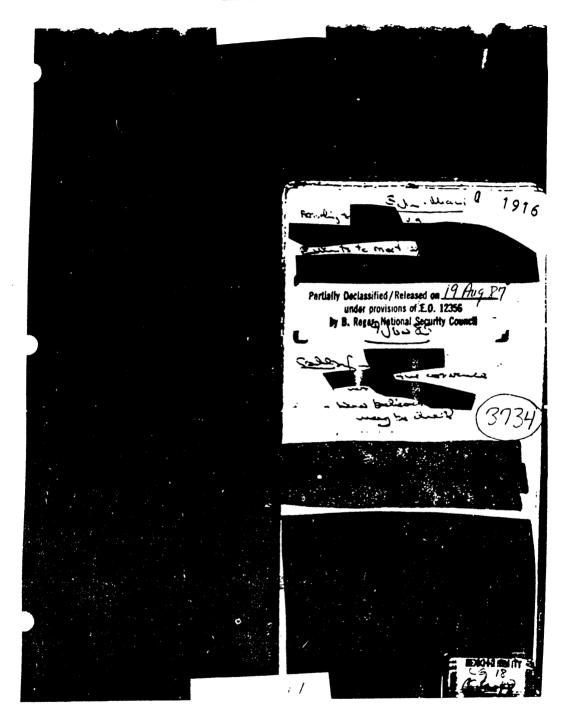
Susmary. As discussed with ADM Poindexter, it appears that both these plans can proceed simultaneously without undue concern for compromise or mutual jeopardy. Given that arrangements for the DEA operation will take considerable time (contacts inside Lebanon, financial transactions, and rental of yacht/safehouse),

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1. That you approve proceedi	ng with the plans outlined above.
Approve 2019	· Disapprove
	rney General and ask that the two 'be placed on or a period or 30 days.
Approve Dage 4/9	Disapprove
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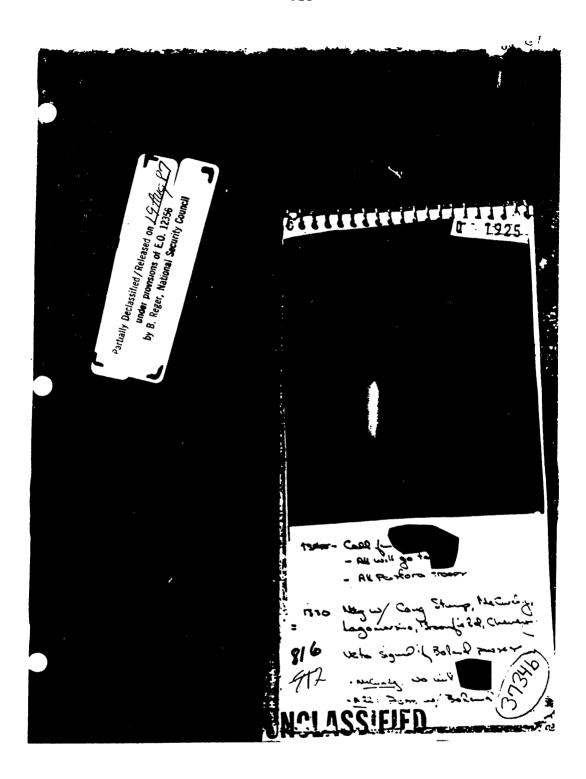
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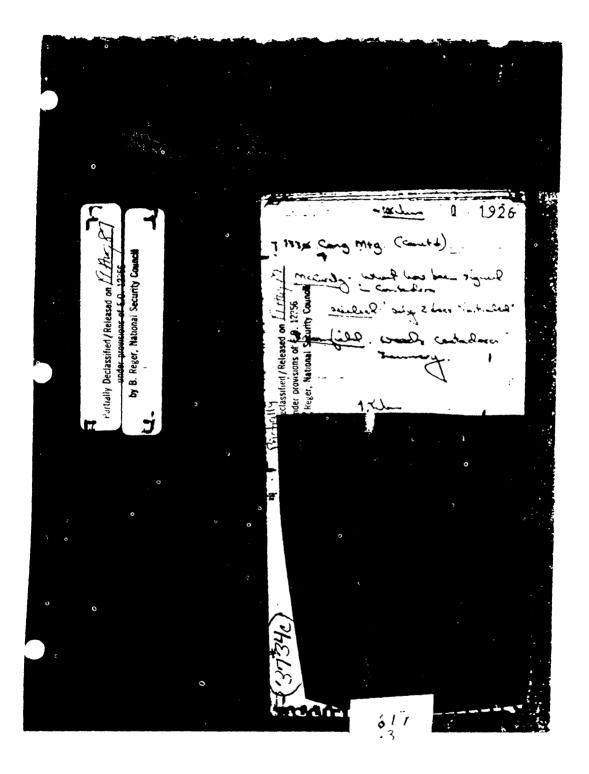
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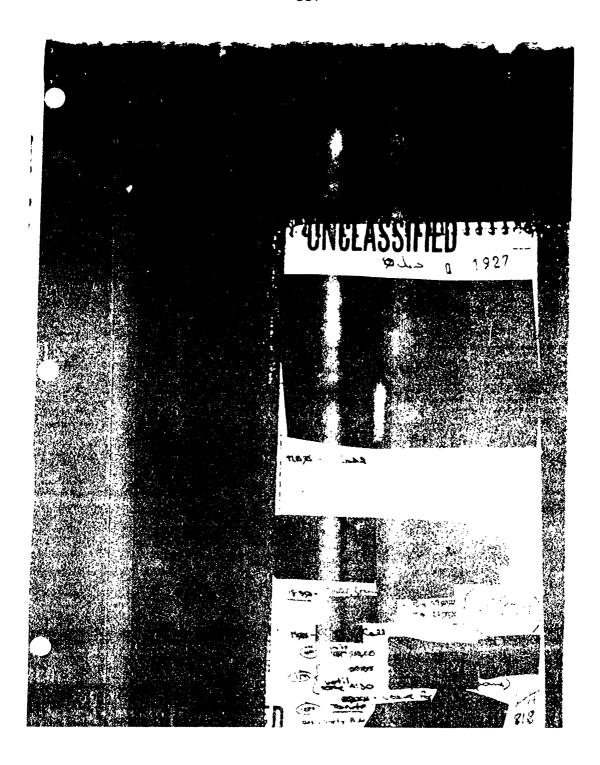


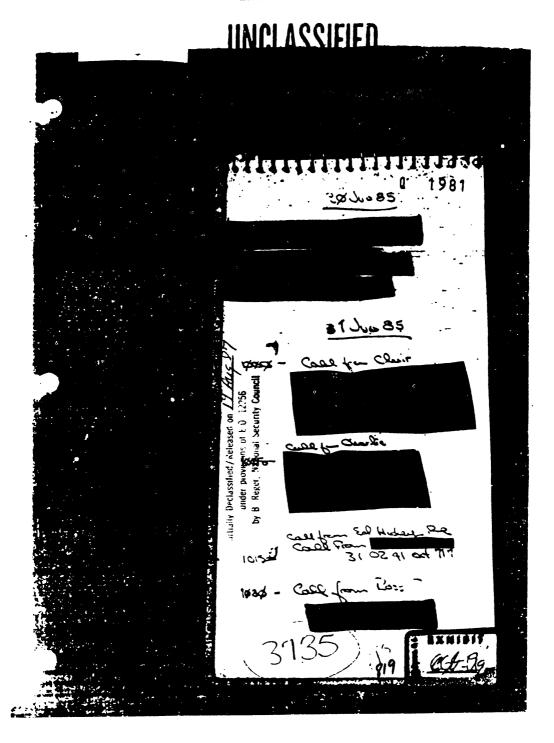
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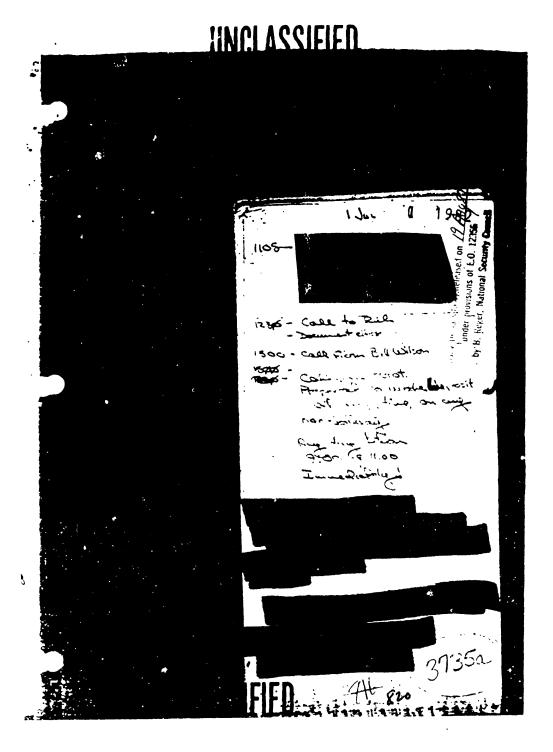
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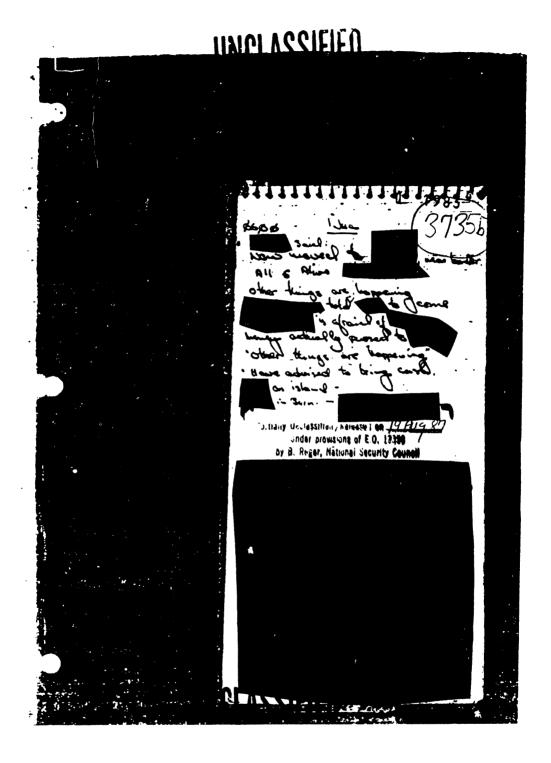


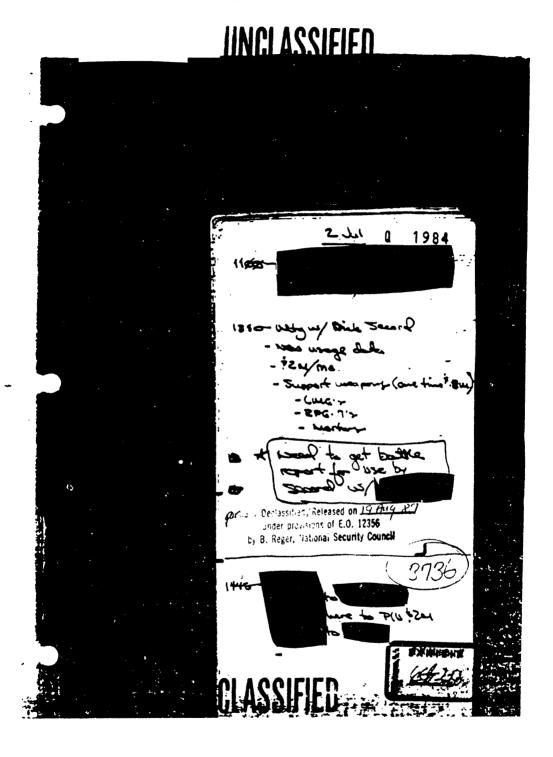


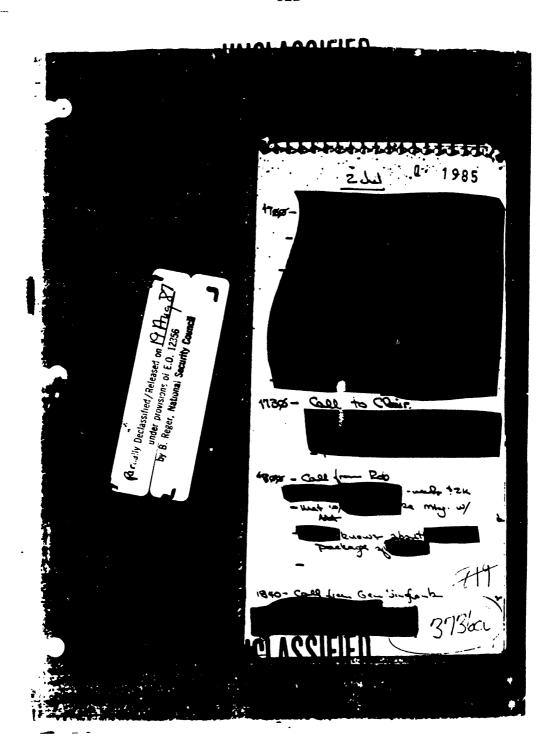












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8 June 1986

HEHORANDIN FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECTION 5 June

The steving subjects were discussed at the meeting:

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by B. Reger, National Security Council
by B. Reger, National Security Council

DCI also effective differts

so well as on Jouggoited effort to which the sight cost as much as \$1000 that could be raised privately. Poladexter agreed to talk to the President to see if this kind of an approach could be pursued grivately given the Administration's policy on ranson. (5/47)

5.

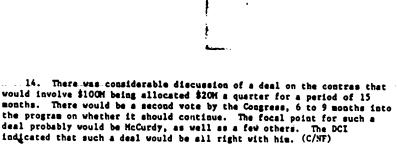
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Robert H Gates

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Lución Rejistry



Dr. Cyrus Hashemi who is currently in Hamburg at the Hilton Hotel in Room 703.

Hashemi has tried to get in touch with us before offering to put us in touch with leading figures in the Iranian Government. When we learned that Hashemi is under investigation, if not by this time indicted, for violations of export control laws, we pulled away.

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His recent call to Shaheen offered a phange in policy (or information policy) a change in policy) that he could provide if the American Government would be able to get him a nolle pros -- in short, if we are able to take the pending indictment for conviction off his back. Shaheen said that he had no power to do that but then asked whether his contacts with the Iranian government were good enough to spring the hostages if he could be gotten off the hook. Shaheen did this knowing that a nolle pros had been arranged for high national security considerations but his experience in this goes back to World War II. What he was doing was feeling out Hashemi to see what kind of a reaction he would get. Hashemi said he would call back and in two hours he was back on the phone having, he said, talked to

He came back asking for the release of the DANA
hostages, plus weapons, plus his nolle pros. Shaheen dismissed this saying
no weapons, no DANA prisoners. Then again, to feel him out, said, although I can't
speak for the US Government you might be able to get some Italian medical supplies
or something like that

Again Kashemi said
he would check and called back within a couple of hours claiming that he had
talked again to

and that they weren't interested in Italian
medical supplies but they were willing to have a high ranking representative from
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or Thursday of the coming week. He would have an agenda of what they were interested in.

Dr. Hashemi claims to be in touch with

as early as Wednesday

or Thursday of the coming week. He would have an agenda of what they were interested in.

knows about a recent attempt by George Bush's brother, together with a man named Shekeleh (no further identification) to contact the Iranians on this. Shaheen claims that he has made it clear that he can't do it for anything, that the US Government does not deal with terrorists, that if there is a meeting

nothing at all could be agreed upon in advance, that it would be up to the Iranians to attempt to offer something which

might be able to work out.

This should probably be taken up with the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations to see whether he is ready under the circumstances to see if would be willing to listen to whatever proposition the Iranians might have in mind bringing and to surrounding information might be available.

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rartially Declassified/Released on 19 Aug 8" under provisions of E.O. 12356 by B. Reger, National Security Council

HEHORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Further Details from John Shaheer

ANTEIN Sur All

Li. Shaheen phoned me at hom at 8:00 pm on 2 July. had just_spoken to Hashemi, who reports:

. Ireniens went to meet next week, probably at

is in fact a

He wants to meet

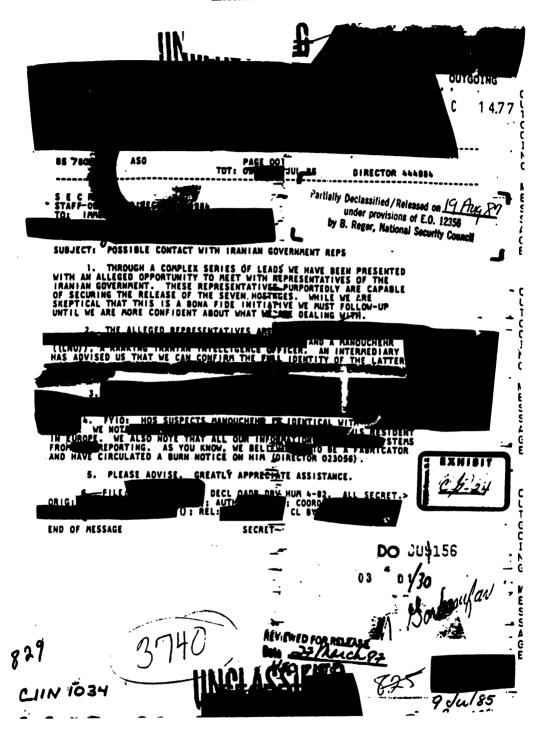
fon the first day to explain the motivations and objectives of his Government (not further explained);

c. The next day a more formal meeting would be held with both Iranians present; the Iranians assume would be present.

- 2. Shaheen told Hashemi that the Iranians better get cracking on the release of the seven (2) American hostages in Lebenon.

 Hashemi allegedly sa.d that the Iranian motivation for helping at this time was humanitarian.
- 3. Hashemi repeated that a U.S. quid pro quo would be necessary from the Iranian perspective (not clear whether this is his formulation or is coming from the Iranians).
- 4. Hashemi also plans, or hopes, to be present at the first meeting. He assumes and Iranians will have no need for him by the second day.
- 5. All of the above was relayed to Peter Burleigh at State the morning of 3 July with my suggestion that decline to have Hashemi present either day.

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9 July 1985

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PANORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

New Developments on the Shaheen-Bashemi Indirect 7----

John Shaheen phoned late on & July with the two Iranian to are willing to meet es who They are:

and

Manouchehr (lnu), a ranking Intel Officer.

full identity of Manoucheb Shaheen said that we can consist

Hashemi claims that Hanoughehr was helpful in the release of the TWA 39 hostages ... (We know of no basis for this claim).

Hashemi claims that the Tranians are more interested in a change of course than in any other quid pro quo. When asked to change of course than in any other quid pro quo. When asked to clarify whether that meant a US:change of policy or an Iranian change, Shaheen said he thought it meant both; i.e., a change is the course of US-Iranian relations. Hashemi claims that Syria a change in will not be involved in the release of the seven remaining hostages because Hizballah deals directly with Iran.

3. Shaheen said, "We are not dealing with children; Hashemi now insists that it be made clear to the US Government that as goon as the seven hostages are aprung, he will get his nolle prosequi." Hashemi asked for confirmation from Shaheen which government agency was involved. Shaheen told him on the prosequi. Hashemi asked for confirmation from Shaheen which government agency was involved. Shaheen told him on the international phone lines that it was the Bureau of Fisheries. Hashemi replied that whether it was Weinberger, Schultz, Casey, or the Bureau of Fisheries, his lawyer, Elliot Richardson, needs at the Bureau of Fisheries, his lawyer, Elliot Richardson, needs at this time to confirm that the US Government acknowledges Bashemi's helpful role if the seven hostages are released. (I later phoned Shaheen back at his insistence to repeat the previous talking point from State.) "Our willingness to have

State.) "Our willingness to ha meet with a confidential representative of Iran as an initial step does not mean any willingness on the US
Government's part in the part of Justice, to take

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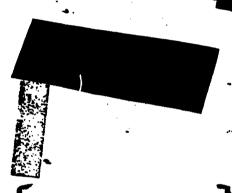
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any judicial step concerning Mr. Hashemi. The possibility of any such step rould only be addressed, if at all, after the US Government has parened from the secting. Such above has been such as the did not think that would be enough for urge that someones the US Government confirm to Elliot Hashemi is assisting.

All of the above has been seen and the US Government channel that possibility of any after the US first

All of wine above has been passed to Peter Burleigh at the next step is for State to confirm with the two Iranians within the next week. I will then phone that back to Shaheen and the transfer advise through Hashemi their time of arrival



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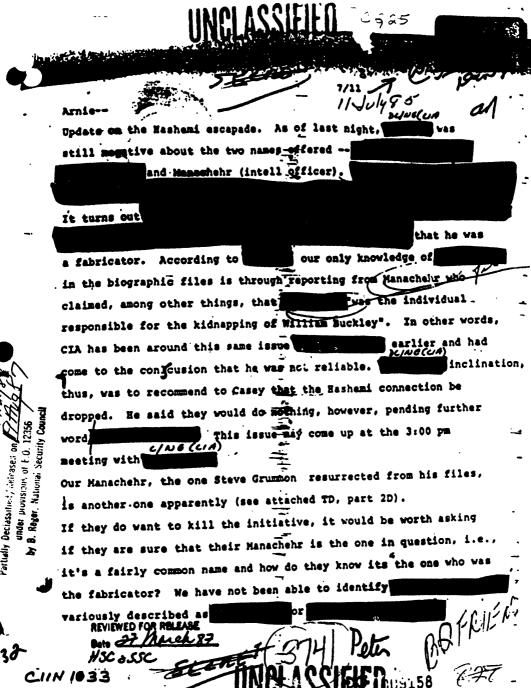


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MEMORANDUM FOR THE-RECORD

SUBJECT: Message for John Shaheen to Pass to Hashemi re: Contact with Two Iranians

1. I-phoned Shaheen at 1800 hours on 12 July to give him the State Department approved plan. I gave it to him in two phases. The first was for his information only, that we have confirmed is an important figure

The second name we were given by Mashemi has been confirmed to us to be a fabricator and unreliable. In fact we have had a previous bad experience with him on the hostage issue. I told Shaheen not to provide this information to Hashemi.

- 2. Hashemi is to be given the following will be prepared to meet at a time of the Iranian's convenience with the may bring MANOUCHEHR with him if he Wishes. Will not repeat not meet with MANOUCHEHR alone. Shaheen replied that he got the point; It made sense to him; and he would send it promptly to Hashemi, who is probably in Geneva.
- 3. Shaheen departs for Tokyo at 1100 hours on 13 July and will be at the Tokyo Imperial Hotel for about a week after Sunday noon. I have his phone number.
- 4. The above plan was proposed by us to DAS Arnie Raphel and approved by Mike Armacost on Friday afternoon. They will send another interim cable

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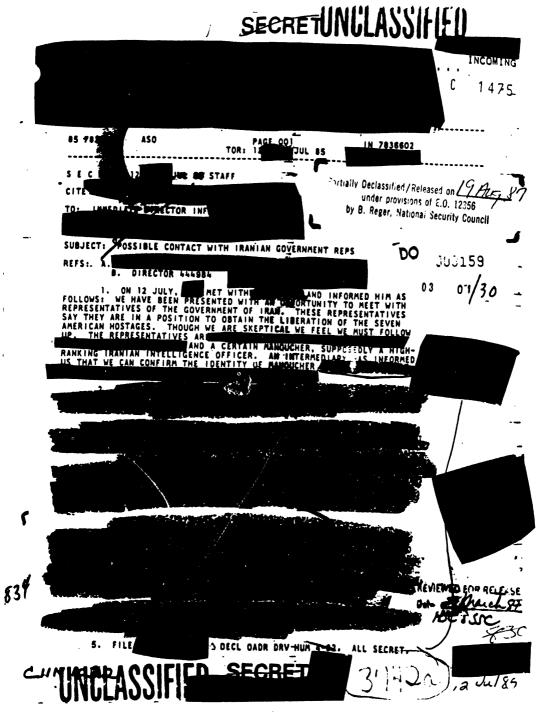
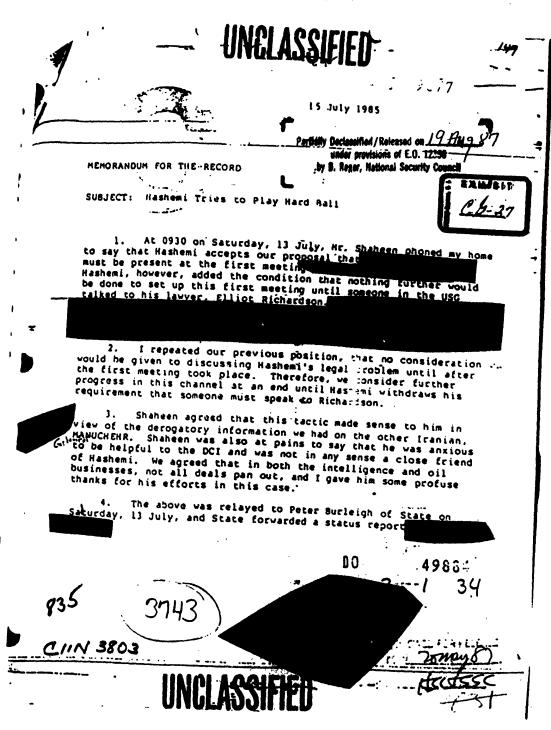


EXHIBIT CG-27



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16 July 1985-

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Bashemi Lawyer Contacts CIA

Assuming that it was Mr. Shaheen, I took the call; the caller said he was Mr. Elliot Richardson speaking from London. Mr. Richardson said he has been representing Mr. Hashemi, and he understands that some consideration is being given to a discussion between the USG and Mr. Richardson. I told him that Mr. Hashemi had claimed through a third party that he could set up a meeting that was of interest to the USG. After that meeting took place, consideration could be given to whether or not to have a meeting with Mr. Richardson. Mr. Hashemi tried to change the rules; there is no interest in a discussion with Mr. Richardson; at this time, the ball is in Mr. Hashemi's court.

2. Mr. Richardson seemed a little confused and said he believed he was misinformed. He asked if specific consideration had been given to a discussion with him. I said yes, and there is no interest in such discussion at this time.

3. I can only surmise that Mr. John Shaheen has passed phone number to Mr. Hashemi or directly to Mr. Richardson. As Mr. Shaheen is in Tokyo for the next eight days, I do not plan to ask him.

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EWED FOR RELEASE (EXEC. REG.) (5)



23 July 1985

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HEHORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Hashemi Claims He will Set Up Meeting

After All

1. John Shaheen phoned me from Tokyo late Saturday evening, 20 July to say that Hashemi has been in touch, obviously via international phone. Shaheen said since we will not meet with the Hashemi lawyer, Elliot Richardson, as Hashemi demanded, Hashemi has decided to proceed anyway with setting up the meeting

I expressed surprise, Shaheen said it is the only shot that Hashemi has to get his nolle prosequi.

2. The next step is for Hashemi to advise the date of the meeting

3. Shaheen again apologized for the mistake of his secretary in giving Mr. Elliot Richardson my office telephone number. He said it happened because she was not witting of my interest, and he was out of touch in rural Japan.

4. Arnie Raphel at State has been notified of the above.



Partially Declassified / Released on 19 Aug 87 under provisions of E.O. 12356 by B. Reger, National Security Council

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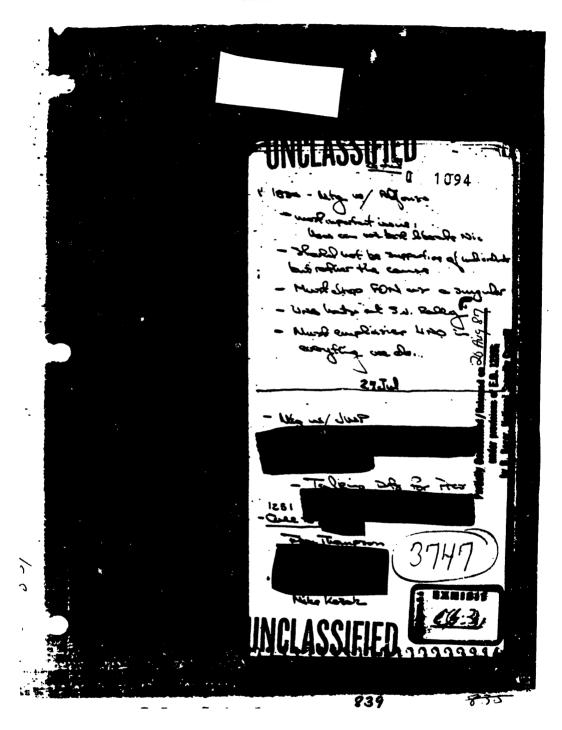
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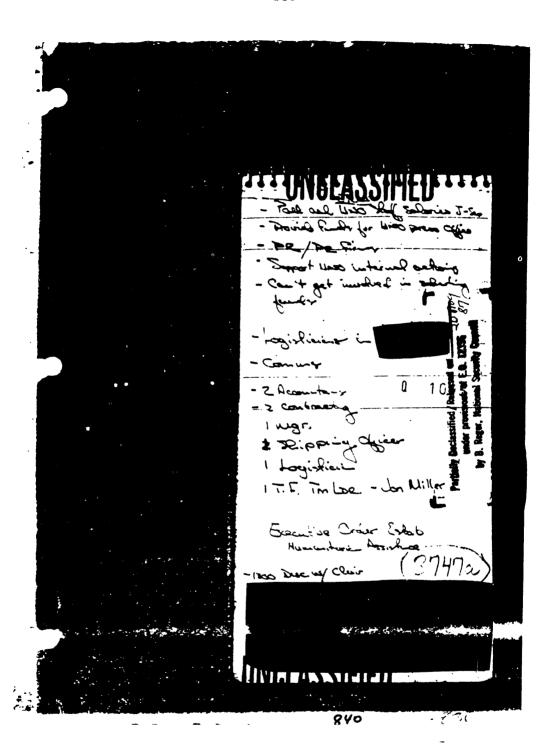
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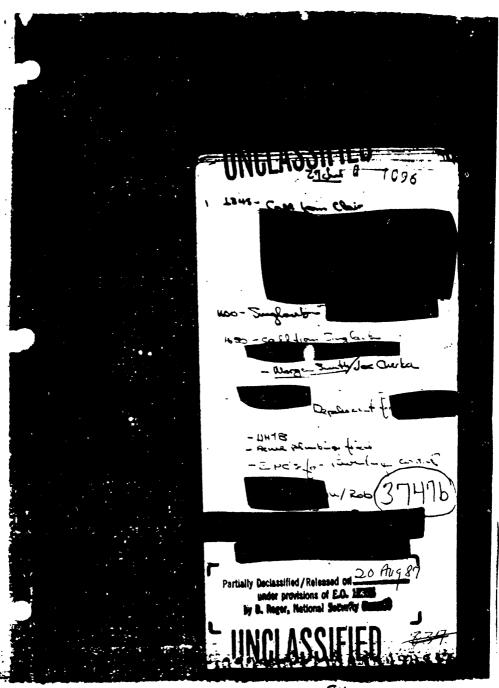
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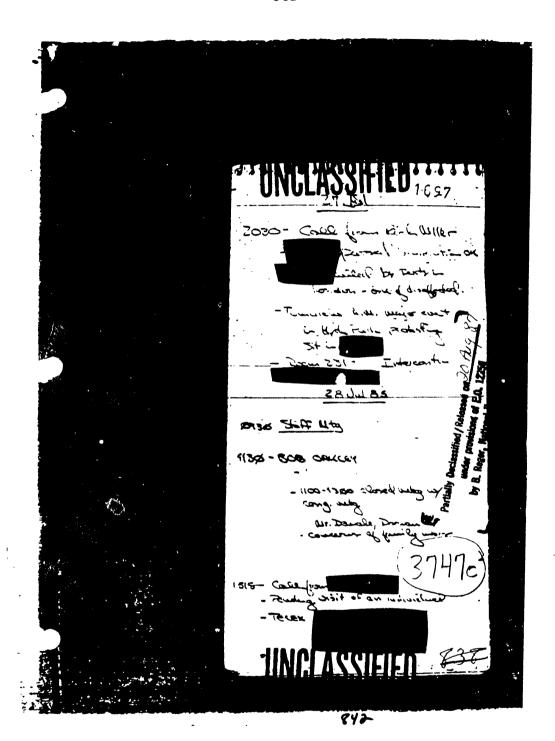


EXHIBIT CG-32

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DD/0 75-1352



19 August 1985

HEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Status of Hashemi-Elliot Richardson Contact

1. Elliot Richardson phoned the DCI on 14 August to find out if the illusive (the undersigned) worked for the DCI and to see if a meeting could be arranged to find out the Agency's intentions toward his client, Mr. Hashemi. At the DCI's instruction, I telephoned Mr. Richardson back to repeat the status of our relationship with Mr. Hashemi.

- 2. Mr. Richardson was informed that the ball remains in Mr. Hashemi's court, as it was the last time we talked on 16 July. Mr. Richardson said that he understood that Hashemi had dropped his condition, i.e., that Hashemi would do nothing until the US Government spoke to his lawyer.
- 3. Mr. Richardson said that he was anxious to know if his client would be treated fairly, commensurate with the effort he was making on our behalf. I had him hold on the phone while I found the correct language in our file, then read him the language we received from State and Justice: "the possibility of any judicial consideration for Mr. Hashemi can only be addressed after the US Government has learned what the results of the first meeting in Europe is which Mr. Hashemi allegedly is setting up."

 Mr. Richardson tried to ask what "consideration" meant and to elicit further our thinking on the nolle prosequi. I repeated only that there was nothing further we could say until a meeting takes place. The ball has been in his client's court for some weeks and that frankly his client does not have a good track record in these matters. I also noted that Mr. Hashemi has an established channel through a third party when he wishes to reach us. Richardson repited that he had attempted to reach that third party (Mr. Shaheen) but was unsuccessful.
 - 3. Two problems occur:

a. I am no longer sure that Mr. Shaheen will be available as an intermediary in the event that Mr. Hashemi talks to us again. Perhaps the DCI has more information on Mr. Shaheen.

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Has helbeen introduced? When he is, presumably he woult take over the Richardson connection as well.

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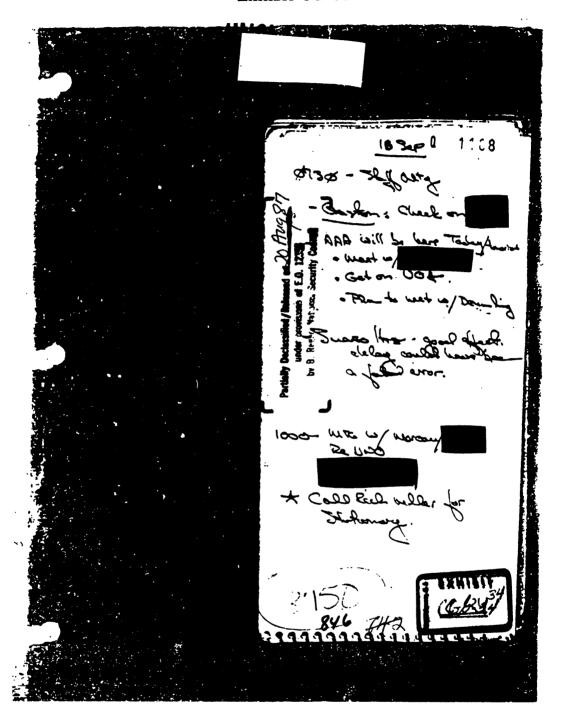
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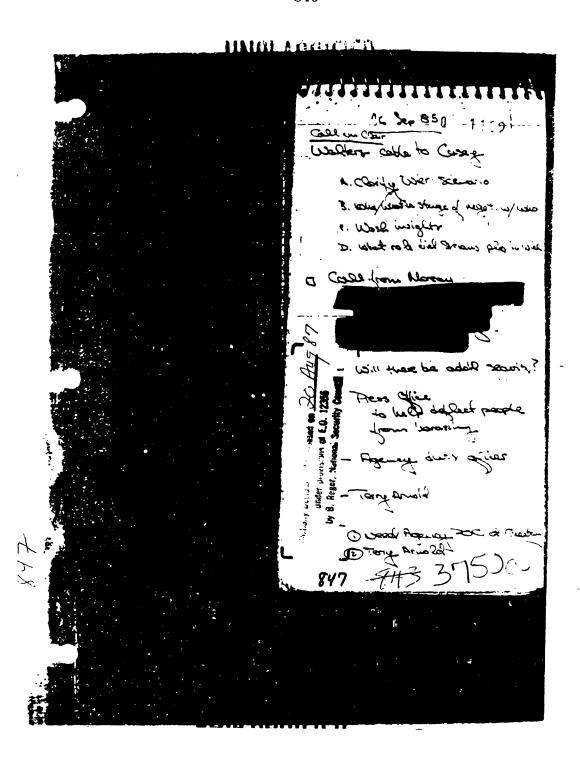
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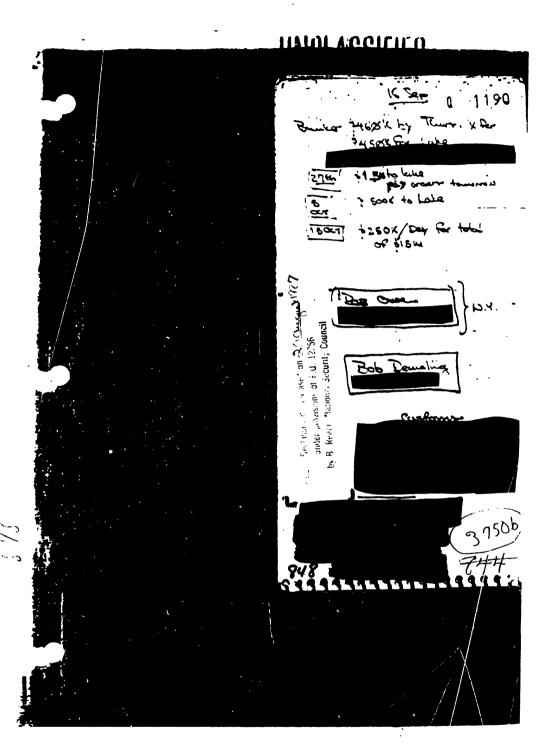


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7 October 1985

HEMORANDUM FOR:

No. of the gence Court

VIA:

Office of General Counsel Central Intelligence Agency

FROM:

National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism

and Narcotics

SUBJECT:

Background on U.S. Initiative to Secure Release of

American Hostages

1. The following is provided for your background on an extremely sensitive White House initiative to secure the release of the American

hostages held by the Iranian-backed Hizballah organization in Lebanon. This initiative has been underway for some months and is being controlled directly by the National Security Council (NSC). I have served the MSC as the focal point for coordinating Intelligence Community collection requirements to support the White House initiative.

 On 12 September, I was requested by LTC Oliver North, Deputy Director
of Political/Military Affairs of the NSC, to begin Intelligence Community
against certain Iranians who were involved with the White House and who were in contact with the Lebanese Hizballah. Over the next two days able to secure sufficient information to identify two Iranians who were the key players in the Misse Over the next two days I was

House initiative.

One of the Iranians was

ose

first name is unknown.

On behalf of the Iranian government

the White House was able to gain critical insights into the attitudes of these Iranians toward the release of the American hostages and the relationship and influence that Iranian officials have over Hizballah personnel who are holding the hostages. The release of Rev. Benjamin Weir was effected by the White House working through intermediaries who were in direct contact with who in turn was dealing directly with following the release of Weir, indicated, again through intermediaries, to the White House that other American hostages might be released in 123 1272

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3. Or 28 September 1 was informed by the MSC (Lit Morth) to again	
coordinate Arc analysis of the	
cornection because the White House had received information that another	
hostage, probably William Buckley, would be released sometime between 3 and 5	
October. This increased collection effort was undertaken	
ine announcement by the Islamic	:
Jihad on 3 October that it planned to execute William Buckley created a new	
dimension in the continuing contacts between and and The White House through intermediaries indicated to that it was important that	
House through intermediaries indicated to that it was important that	
he come to the US in order to determine whether potential still exists to	
secure the release of Buckley, assuming that he had not been killed, or of the	2
remaining hostages held by Hizballah. The White House informed me on	
5 October that would arrive on 7 October on	
Airport and	0645
that mourd be staying in the more in Mashington, Also	
joining for these meetings was one an	
Israeli, who has served as one of the intermediaries for the White House in	
dealing with reportedly has a financial relationship with and has been involved in	
reportedly has a financial relationship with and has been involved in	
Joint ventures with in obtaining munitions for the Government of	_
Iran. also Will be staving at the Hotel.	
	_
The MSC stated that this was perhaps our las	t
opportunity to utilize this channel to determine whether William Buckley is	•
still alive (we now have strong evidence that he is dead) and whether there	
are any opportunities remaining to secure the free om of the other hostages.	_
Sign State of the Control of the Con	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far. Deyond any question is an agent of the Iranian	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far beyond any question is an agent of the Iranian government	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far, beyond any question is an agent of the Iranian government.	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far beyond any question is an agent of the Iranian government	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far beyond any question is an agent of the Iranian government Of the Iranian government: My knowledge of comes from a White House official	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far beyond any question is an agent of the Iranian government Of the Iranian government: My knowledge of comes from a White House official	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far. Deyond any question is an agent of the Iranian government is an influential member of the Iranian government.	
4. From my perspective and based on the analysis of the intelligence collected thus far. Deyond any question is an agent of the Iranian government Of the Iranian government My knowledge of only comes from a White House official who assures me that has been an important intermediary in this	
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initiative and that he too has financial arrangements with meetings that will occur this week here in mashington with are considered pivotal by the White Mouse as to whether this initiative should be pursued further. The hostages believed to be held by Hizballah are as follows: Father Lawrence Jenco, a Roman Catholic priest; David Jacobsen, director of Beirut's American University Hospital; Thomas Sutherland, Dean of Agriculture at the American University; and Terry Anderson, chief Ap correspondent in the Middle East.

Charles E. Allen

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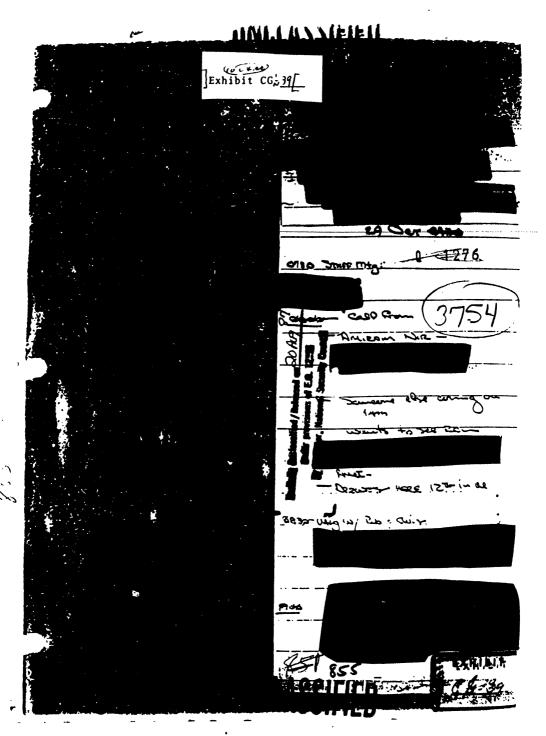
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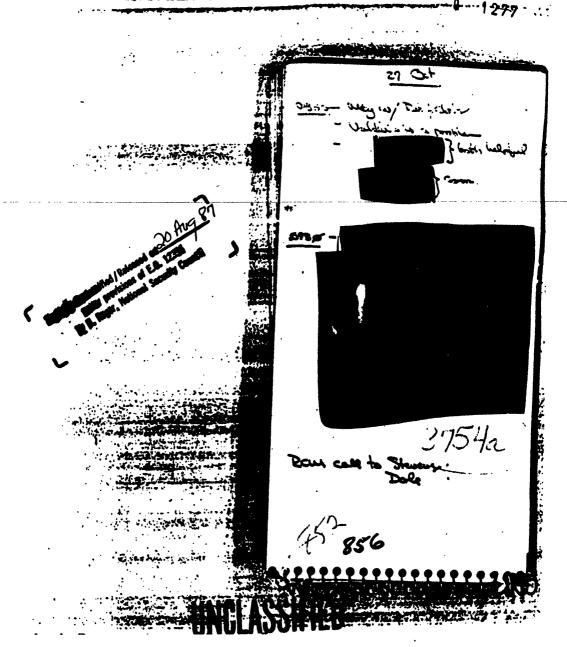
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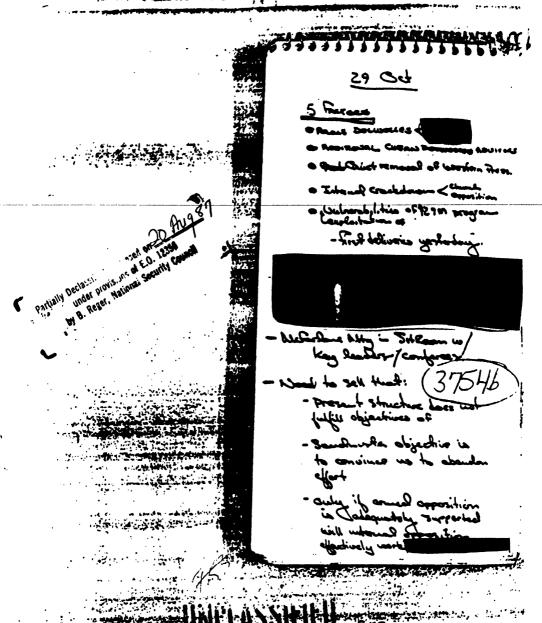
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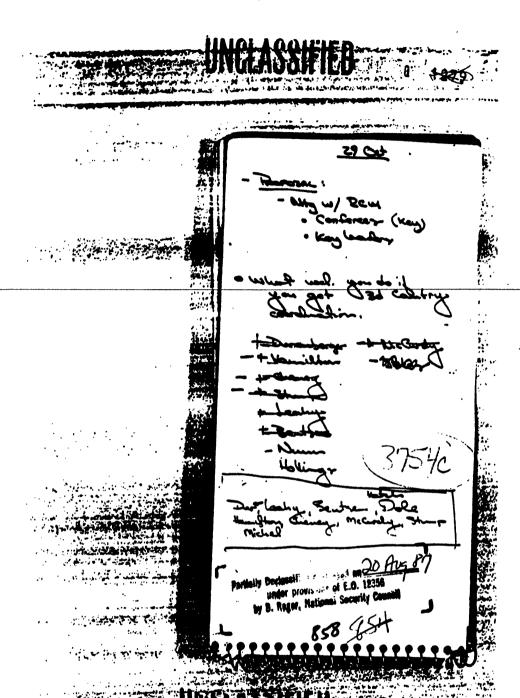


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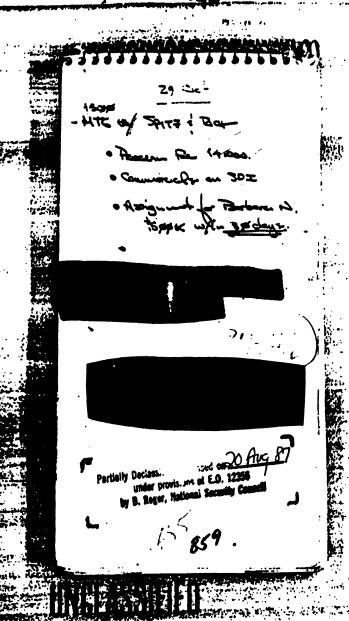


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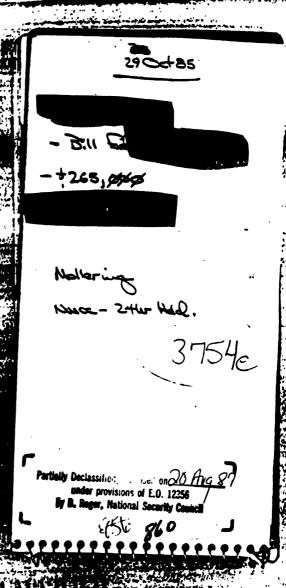




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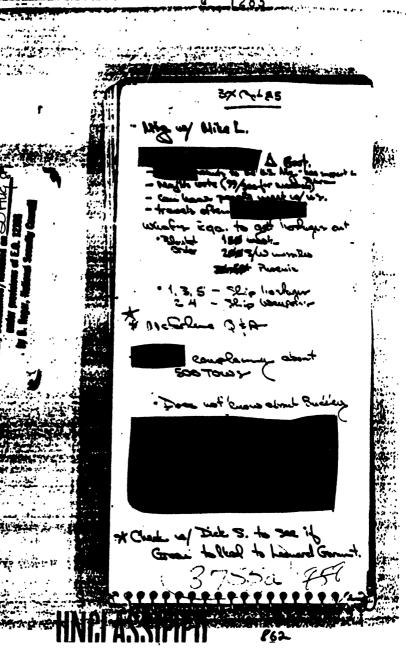


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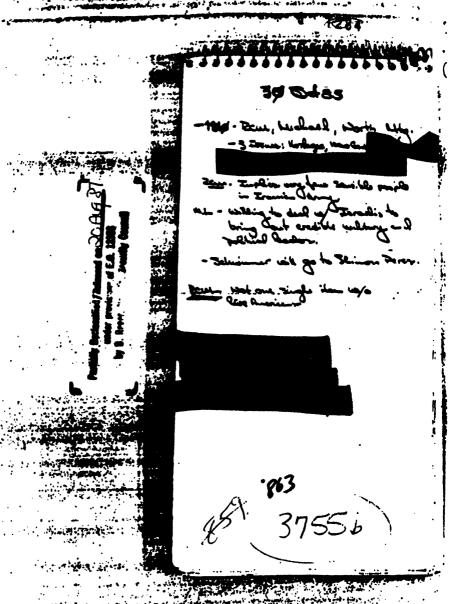
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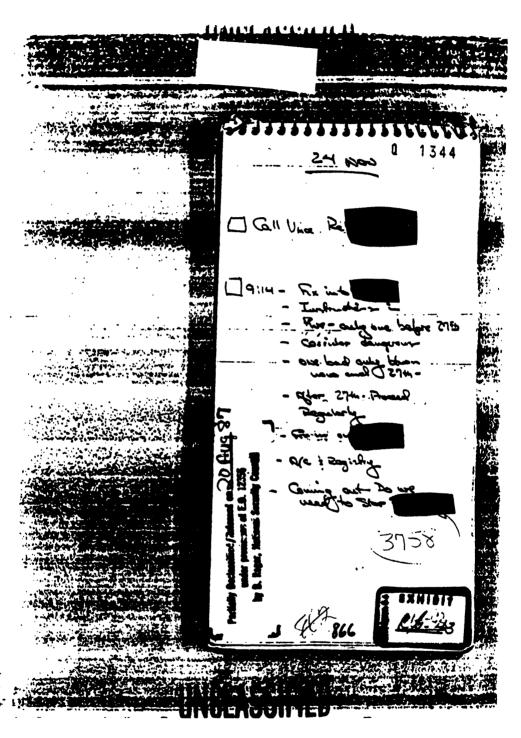
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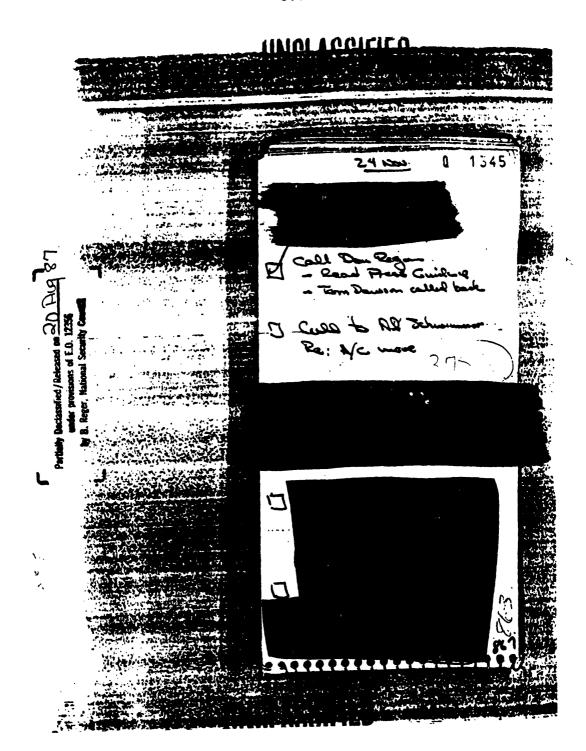
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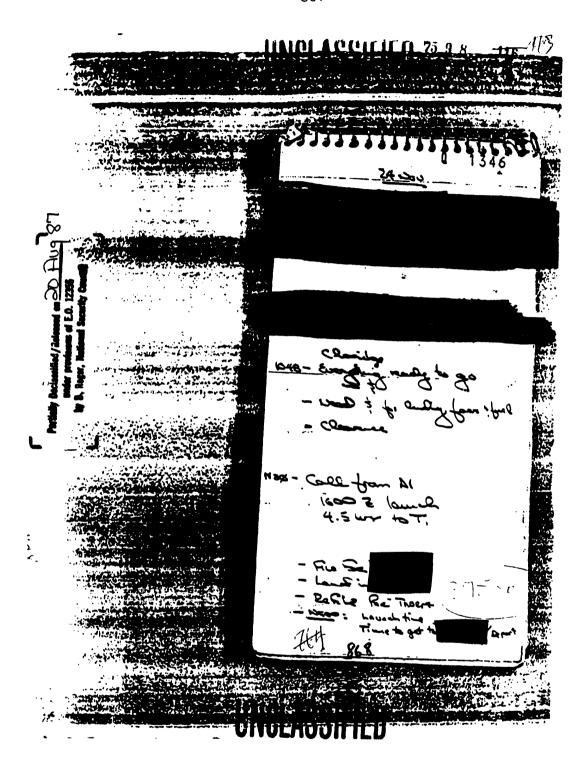
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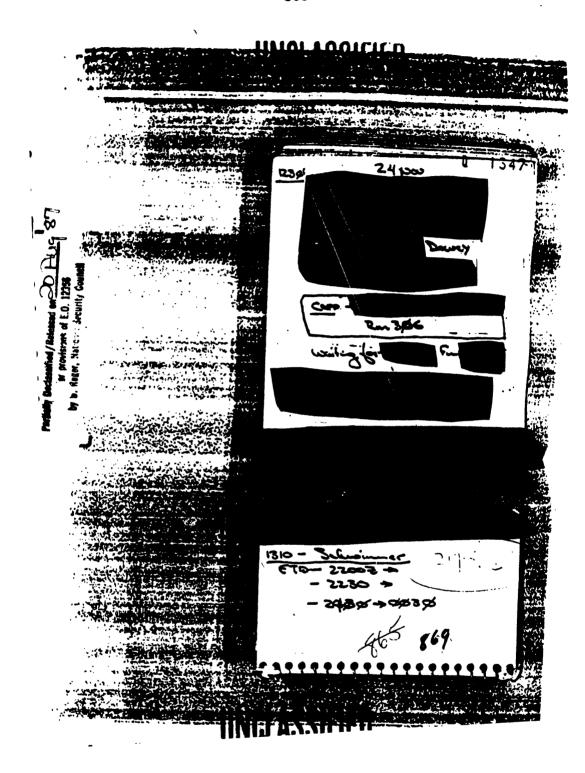
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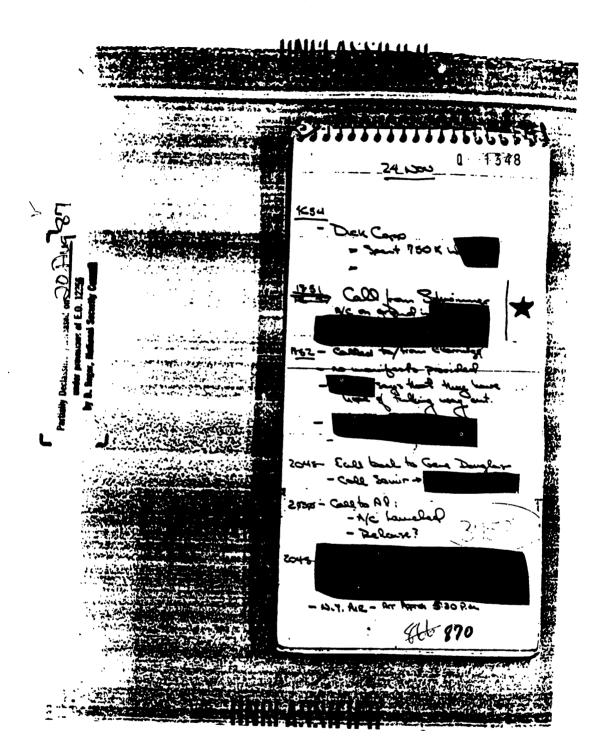
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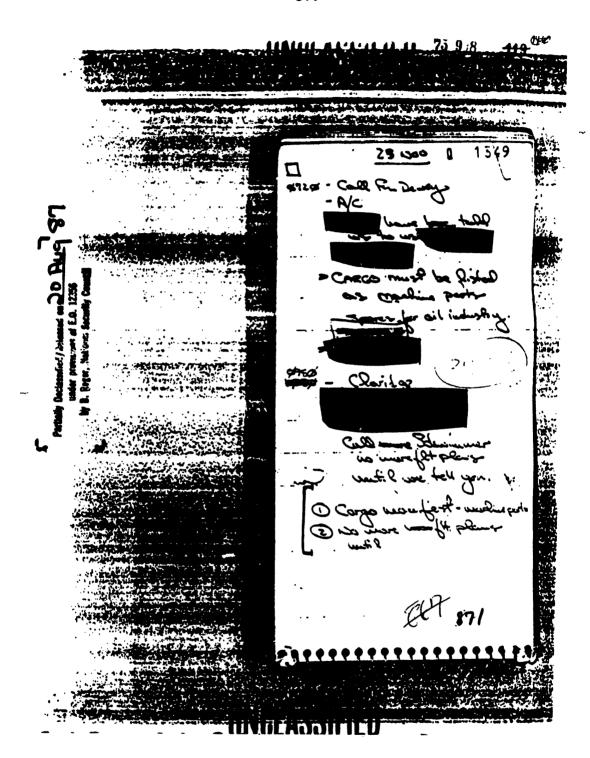


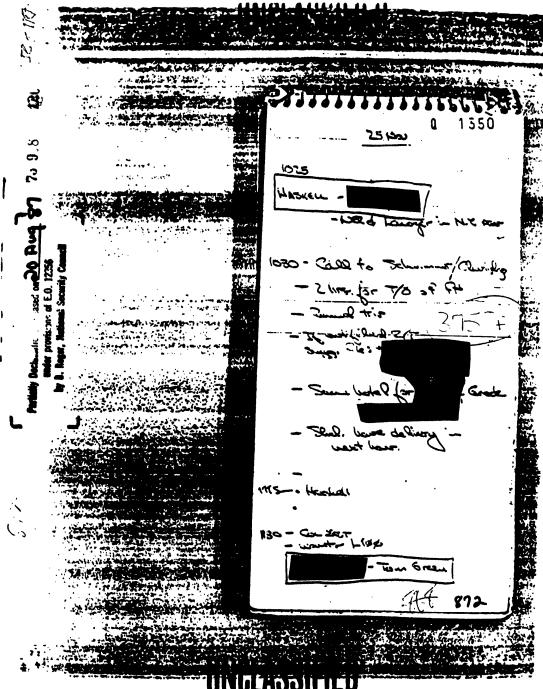


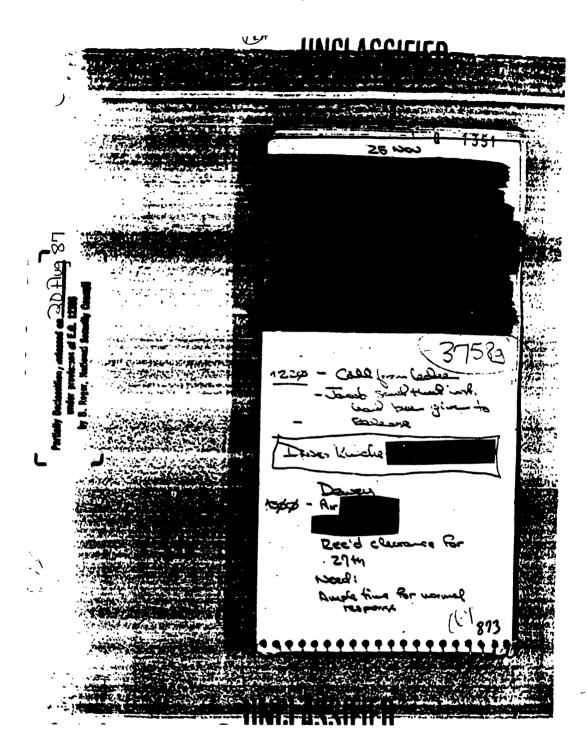


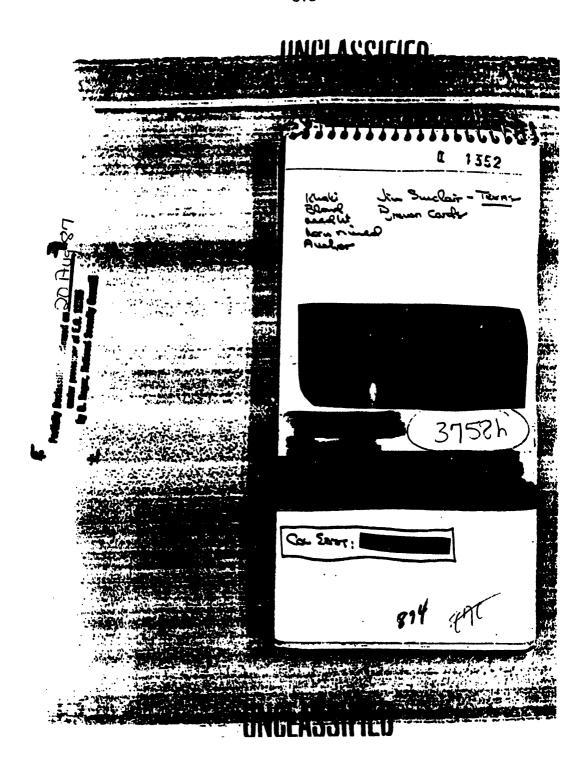




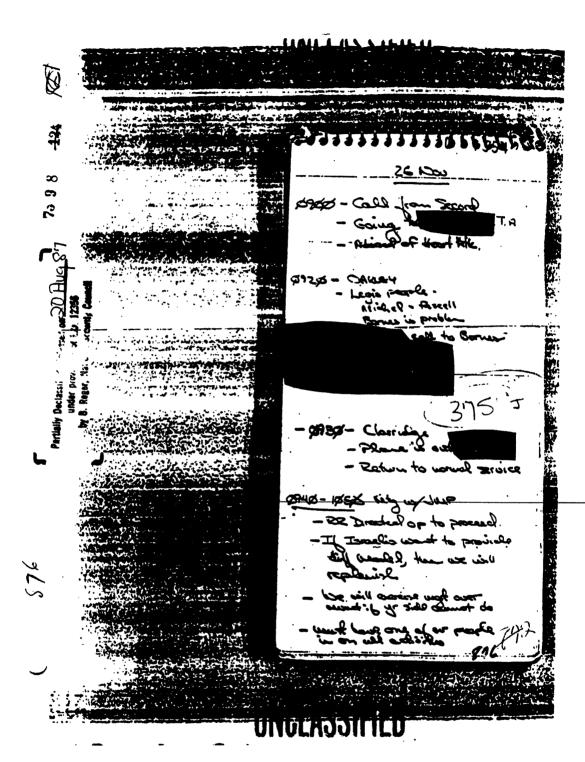


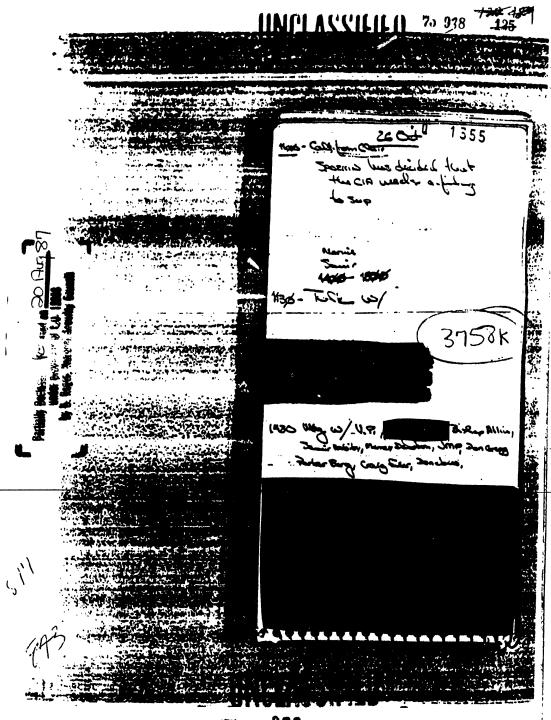






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7 December 1985

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: VSC Mission

French, Backers: " Second on 20 Aug 877 and parts or of 6.0. 1235 by 6. Report, Reference America, Committee

1. On Saturday, 23 November 1985, Ed Juchniewicz asked me if I was aware of all the activity transmiring on the effort to get the hostages out. He showed me a cable to the asking that we pass a message to the charge from the Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs. The message assured the charge that only the Secretary of State and Ambassador Jakley were aware of the operation. I told Juchniewicz that I was unaware of the specifics of the operation but due to the sensitivity of the operation, it was appropriate that we pass correspondence between the MSC and the ambassadors overseas, but only communications, that we could not be involved without a Finding.

2. On Yonday, the 25th of November, while visiting the Office of the DOO, Report on a flight that and mad given Clair George a Spot massion. I went through the Dovembead pointing but that there was no way we could become involved in any implementation of this mission without a finding. Yn. Duchniewicz applied that we aid not make the arrangements. When leneral Second visited the Agency he tried to get leads on airlines that might be available to move equipment to the Near East in a secure fashion. We told him we sid not have any such airlift tappoility. However, Yn. Juchniewicz said it was pointed out to Deneral Second that there was a commercial airlift that might do it owned by Beneral Second then took it from there and made arrangements for a flight on a strictly commercial basis.

3. Jomewhat distressed at this turn of events, I immediately informed our dereal Coursel after confirming with Dewey Darrings our prival venent. I instructed the Dersonnel to immediately 30 over and orief the Deneral Coursel and 30 styles the Deneral Coursel at 5:15, the evening of 25 overage. The informed he later that higher that a Finding you'd be required, not so much from the arrival standarding, but from our involvement in influencing foreign government officials to assist the mission. A finding was prepared the next tay. The Finding was cleared with the Director and called McFarlane and Don Regan to ascertain that indeed this had presidential approval and to get assurances that a Finding would be so signed. After repeated calls to MSC personnel on 27 November and during the week of 2 December continuously receiving reassurances of the President's intent to sign the Finding, we were notified on 5 December that indeed the Finding was signed. The President directed us not to inform Congress for the reasons of the safety and secure release. If the nostages until he so sirected.

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4. (On 25 November, the Ambassador in cabled the Director personally noting that Ambassador would like to talk to the Director on the telephone. In response, I released a cable to the Ambassador assuring him that the operation that he had been briefed on by the DCM was initiated by the National Security Council but suggesting it would not be wise to attempt to reactivate our request to get approval.)

John 1. Actianon

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EXHIBIT CG-45

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18 December 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Discussion with Subject

1. Subject requested a meeting with Chief, DO/EUR and NIO for Counterterrorism at 1500 hours on a December at Headquarters. He explained that he had just returned from Paris where he had conducted some unspecified business. While there, he acquired certain documents and other information that he believed would be useful in a collection effort that the NIO/CT is conducting on behalf of LTC Oliver North, MSC Staff relating to the US hostages. Subject also proposed a new initiative against President Qadhafi and Libya utilizing certain resources that he claims to have at his disposal. However, conduct of this anti-Libyan effort would require Agency support. Chief, EUR recommended that subject provide details to the NIO/CT so that this could be evaluated upon his return on 13 December from a trip to Europe.

2. Subject proceeded to inform NIO/CT of private efforts that he had undertaken with White House encouragement to establish contacts within the Iranian government—contacts that were helpful in securing the release of Rev. Benjamin Weir in September. He stated that he had urged National Security Advisor MacFarlane (whom he serve is a consultant) over a year ago to undertake an effort to establish is as into the Government of Iran and that MacFarlane had agreed that secret, indirect contacts could be established. The objective was to build bridges with more moderate elements of the government in an effort to modify the extremist, anti-Western policies of the Khomeini regime and to determine if these moderate elements were strong enough to seize power. Subject stated that he was able to establish contact with some key Iranians utilizing Israeli contacts, including one Col. Jackob Nimrodi, an Israeli who is involved in the international arms market. Subject would not disclose any details on how he met Nimrodi, although the latter allegedly was at one time a Mossad agent. Nimrodi, who has offices in Tel Aviv, London, and New York, introduced him to a Mr. Ghorbanifar, who also uses the pseudonym Asghari. Ghorbanifar, according to Subject, was once an agent for SAVAK, but saw where the Iranian revolution was headed in 1978 and bolted to Khomeini just before the fall of the Shah. Subject describes Ghorbanifar as "a recruited agent" and "a good fellow who is a lot of fun". Ghorbanifar, who has a family in France, apparently also has a girlfriend in California, who is having some difficulty maintaining her alien resident status.

B 3. Ghorbanifar's principal contact within the Iranian government iscone also known as the state of the stat

Partietly Declaration!/Released on DAU987

Under provisions of E.D. 12366
by B. Reger, Nations, Security Councils a. B. C. B.

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organization in Western Europe. has significant authority in authorizing the procurement of arms
in the Office of the Prime Minister. Ghorbanifar and essert that the activities of Hizballah in Lebanon are managed out of the Prime Minister's office. The line of control goes from that office in Tehran

also had influence over Hizballah. These Iranian elements know what group holds the American hostages in Lebanon and can secure their release if a decision is made to do

The same holds true for the four remaining hostages held by Hizballah; if it is decided that it is in Iran's interest to secure their release, this can be quickly accomplished.

- 4. Subject explained that the four hostages were expected to be released just before Thanksgiving because of the Hawk missiles that had been delivered with intermediaries (who include, among others David Kimche of Israel). After delivery of 20 of these missiles, Sutherland, Anderson, Jenco and Jacobsen were to be released in West Beirut; once these four were released, another 100 Hawk missiles would be delivered to Iran. This did not occur because there—were disagreements over the particular model of the Hawk missile that was delivered. On 28 November was frantically trying to contact Majles Speaker Ransanjani, urging him to reciprocate by freeing the hostages now that the Americans had shown "good faith" by permitting the shipment of Hawks to Tabriz. According to Subject, the disagreement appears to have resulted from a misunderstanding on both sides concerning what specific type of equipment was requested. a misunderstanding on both sides concerning what specific type or equipment was requested. The specific type of equipment was requested. The specific type of equipment had sent word, again through intermediaries, to MacFarlane that Iran was displeased because it did not get the correct equipment. Subject stated that the Iranians apparently had expected a newer, modified version of the Hawk system. According to Subject, the opportunity to deal with Iran now is "excellent" because Tehran is "desperate" for specific types of equipment such as the TOW anti-tank missiles. He also noted that neither Iran nor its surrogate has attacked or kidnapped any Americans in some months. The crew, for example, that had flown in the Hawk missiles had not only been permitted to return unimpeded but were given "caviar" to eat on their flight out of Iran. These developments auger well for the United States and every effort should be made to exploit Tehran's need for arms in order to build bridges with more moderate elements of the Iranian government and to preclude additional attacks against American interests. This was a long term strategy that the United States—with caution and discretion—needs to pursue.
- 5. Subject again turned to Ghorbanifar. The latter, at great personal risk, travels to Iran about once a month to discuss weapons procurement. Ghorbanifar has even traveled to Israel-without Tehran's knowledge--to meet with Israeli officials. All told, Subject has had about a dozen meetings with Ghorbanifar in France, Switzerland, Israel, and the United States. In fact, Subject arranged for Ghorbanifar to come to the US in October and actually brought Ghorbanifar into the White House. As a result, Ghorbanifar enhanced his credibility with senior Iranian officials, including Rafaniani, who brought Ghorbanifar into the White House. As a result, unordanitar ennanceu his credibility with senior Iranian officials, including Rafsanjani, who believes that Vice President Bush is orchestrating the US initiative with Iran. In fact, according to Subject, Rafsanjani believes that Bush is the most powerful man in the US because in addition to being Vice President, he was once Director of CI

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.. 6. Subject stated that Ghorbanifar had met with Agency officials in the past but that he found that CIA officers did not trust him. Ghorbanifar was extermely reluctant to have further contact with CIA and stated that his experiences with CIA "had been bad".

 Subject stated that Ghorbanifar had proposed to him a "scam" that would discredit Libyan leader Qadhafi.

the murder of Libyan dissident leader Murgiyah.

Ghorbanifar claims that this is an excellent opportunity to plan a "sting operation" against Qadhafi by staging the murder of Murgiyah.

According to Chorbanifer's plan, arrangements would be made for Murgiyah to reappear after about three months to expose Qadhafi's intent to murder him.

Subject urged that the Agency seriously consider exploring the possibility of supporting such an operation.

- 8. Subject stated that Ghorbanifar probably has a "limited life span" and speculated that the Iranians may eventually take action against him. Nonetheless, it was important to use fully Ghorbanifar's knowledge and contacts at this stage. Subject noted that he would be traveling again shortly to Europe and would be discussing the proposed Libyan operation further with Ghorbanifar. He was hopeful that, in the meantime, some reaction could be obtained from CIA. Subject noted that he had discussed this issue with Oliver North of the NSC who favors the undertaking of this operation.
- 9. Subject claims that Ghorbanifar has good bona fides with and that the risk of running the sting operation is "relatively low". Moreover, in his view, the risk of exposing the US hand was equally small.

10. Subject also claimed, without further explanation, that the been recruited and would do the bidding of those working on freeing the American hostages.

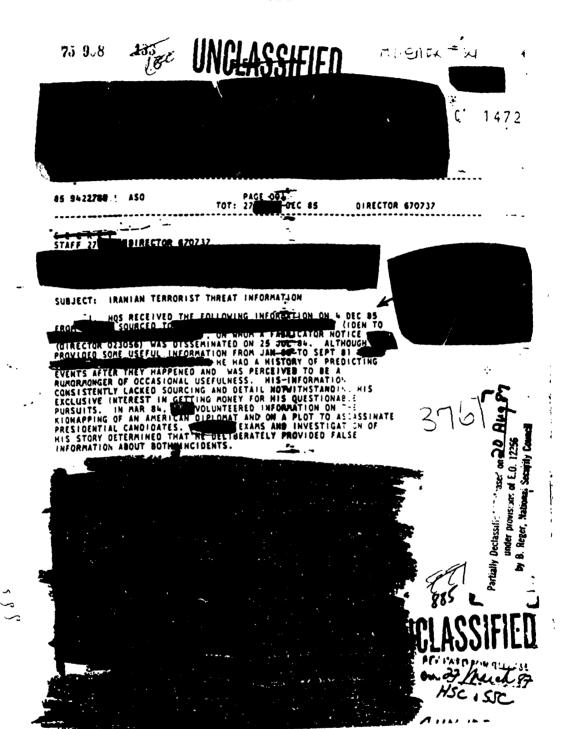
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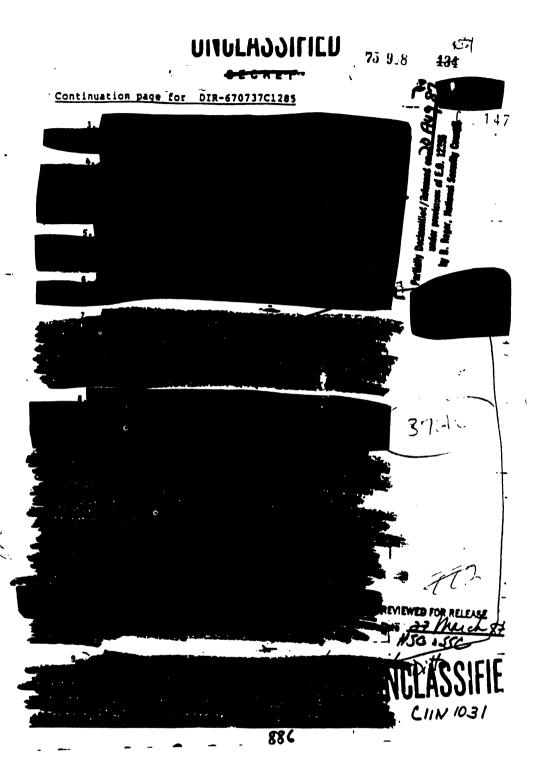
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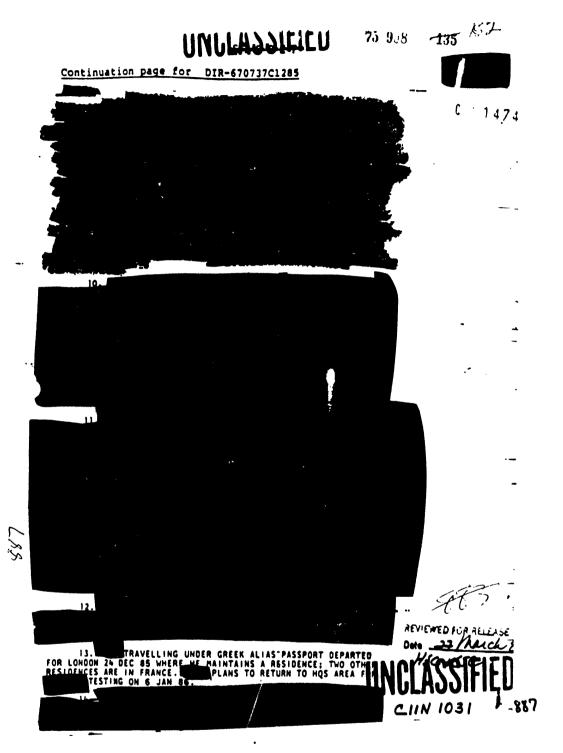
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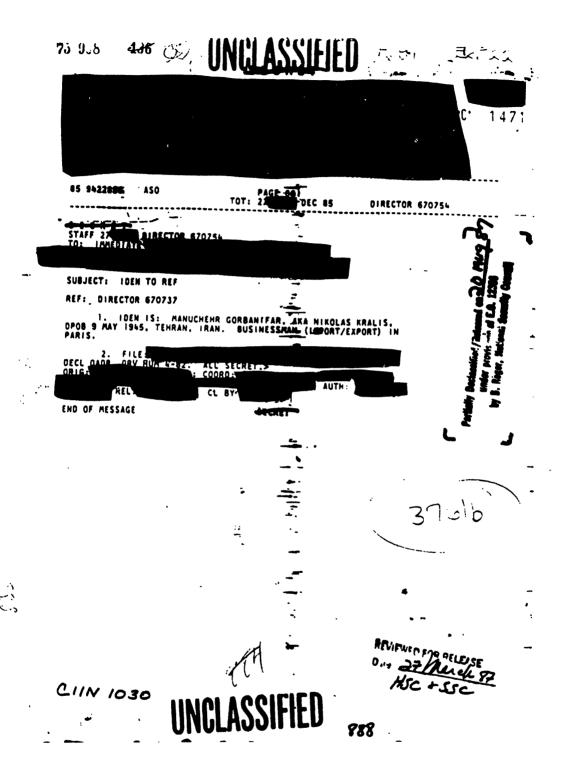
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The Director of Central Intelligence NUTO: 30 Supposer

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26 November 1985

0400

MEMORANDUM FOR: Vice Admiral John M. Poindexter, USN Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

SUBJECT:

Presidential Finding on Middle East

Pursuant to our conversation this should go to the President for his signature and should not be passed around in any hands below our level.

Attachment: As stated

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Finding Pursuant to Section 662 of the Foreign
Assistance Act of 1961, As Amended, Concerning
Operations Undertaken by the Central Intelligence
Agency in Foreign Countries, Other Than Those
Intended Solely for the Purpose of Intelligence
Collection

0401

I have been briefed on the efforts being made by private parties to obtain the release of Americans held hostage in the Middle East, and hereby find that the following operations in foreign countries (including all support necessary to such operations) are important to the national security of the United States. Because of the extreme sensitivity of these operations, in the exercise of the President's constitutional authorities. I direct the Director of Central Intelligence not to brief the Congress of the United States, as provided for in Section 501 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended, until such time as I may direct otherwise.

SCOPE

Hostage Rescue -Middle East

DESCRIPTION

The provision of assistance by the Central Intelligence Agency to private parties in their attempt to obtain the release of Americans held hostage in the Middle East. Such assistance is to include the provision of transportation, communications, and other necessary support. As part of these efforts certain foreign material and munitions may be provided to the Government of Iran which is taking steps to facilitate the release of the American hostages.

All prior actions taken by U.S. Government officials in furtherance of this effort are hereby ratified.

The White House Washington, D.C.

Date

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EXHIBIT CG-47

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10 December 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

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1. At the 1030 meeting today, Rud reported on his discussions over the weekend with Gorbanifehr in London. He did not have a good impression of Gorbanifehr and recommended that we not pursue the proposed relationship with him.

2. Everybody supported this in our roundtable discussion. Other options which Bud had suggested were to let the Israelis go ahead doing what they would probably do anyway, and hope that we get some benefit the The President argued mildly for letting the operation go ahead without any commitments from us except that we should ultimately fill up the Israeli pipeline in any avent, or the Congress will do it for us. He was afraid that terminating the ongoing discussions, as Bud had speculated they might, could lead to early action against the hostages. The trend of the succession of this was that it was a little disingenuous and would still bear the onus of having traded with the captors and provide an incentive for them to do some more kidnapping, which was the main burden of the argument against going forward on the program. The President felt that any ongoing contact would be justified and any charges that might be made later could be met and justified as an effort to influence future events in Iran. I did point out that there was historical precedent for this and that was always the rationale the Israelis had given us for their providing arms to Iran. Everybody supported this in our roundtable discussion. Other options

The outcome was

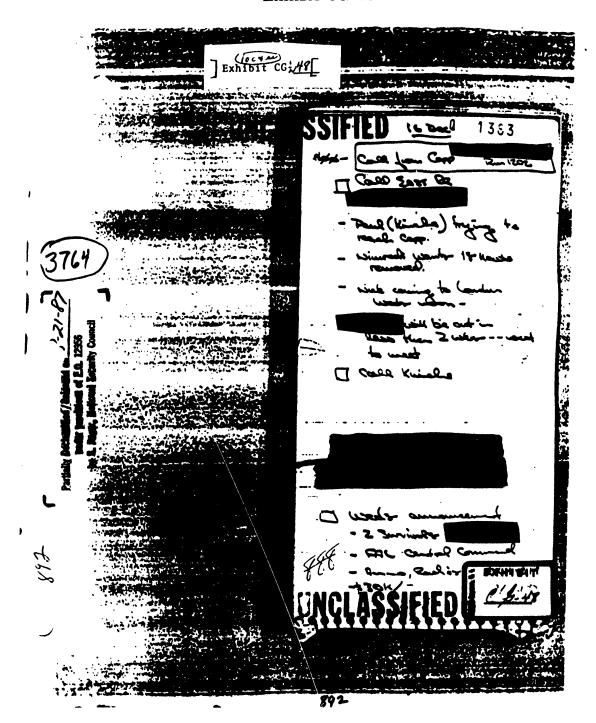
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we would maintain contact with any of the Iranians who turned up in this affair who are willing to do business on the basis of exchanging information and looking for ways to collaborate with respect to iren's flure.

1. As the meeting broke up, I had the idea that the President had "of entirely given up on encouraging the Israelis to carry on with the Iran'ans. I suspect he would be willing to run the risk and take the heat in the ".ture if this will lead to springing the hostages. It appears that Bud has the action.

William J. Casey



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MEMORANDUM POR:

Director of Central Intelligence

FROM:

Chief, Near East

Division

SUBJECT:

Meetings with Michael Ledeen/Manuchehr Ghorbanifar

1. On the afternoon of 21 December, Chief, contacted Mike Ledeen to lay-on arrangements to meet Manuchehr Ghorbanifar (Subject). Ledeen advised that Subject would be arriving a day later than anticipated. He suggested we get together at 1100 hours 22 December to discuss our coming meeting with Subject.

Meeting with Michael Ledeen

- During the 22 December meeting, Ledeen reviewed his relationship with Subject. He said about a year ago, he (Ledeen) had gone to the former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane to discuss the need for an Iran policy. Ledeen suggested to McFarlane that he be authorized to contact the Israeli Government to see what could be done in conjunction with them. McFarlane authorized this contact and shortly thereafter Ledeen met Prime Minister Peres. Ledeen added that Peres was very enthusiastic about working with Ledeen and the U.S. Government on the Iranian problem and told him about their contact with Subject. Two Israeli officials, David Kimche and Jacob Nimradi, introduced Ledeen to Subject. Since then, he has seen Subject 20-30 times, often in conjunction with Kimche and Nimradi. It was from this contact that the operation developed to have the Israelis at our behest deliver to Iran 500 Tow missiles and, more recently, 18 Hawk missiles in exchange for the release of all the hostages held in Lebanon. Ledeen is convinced that the release of Reverend Weir was tied directly to the first shipment of missiles. Ledeen went on to say, however, that he never really expected the Iranians to deliver all the hostages given the "Iranian's merchant mentality."

- The delivery of the Hawk missiles has been an operational nightmare. There was a misunderstanding about the type of missiles the Iranians were seeking. They wanted a missile that could hit a

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target at seventy-thousand feet and already had Hawk missiles in their arsenal. What they thought they were going to get was a modified and advanced version of the Hawk. They are quite angry about the delivery of the missiles and have asked that they be removed from Iran as soon as possible. Their presence in Iran is politically troublesome to the Iranian hierarchy. They are now asking for Hercules or Phoenix missiles.

- Ledeen stated that at a recent high-level meeting which included the President, Secretary of State Schultz and Defense Secretary Heinberger a decision was made not to proceed with Ghorbanifar in an effort to release the hostages. Schultz and Weinberger reportedly were quite unhappy about this operation.
- As an aside, Ledeen noted they had purposely overcharged the Iranians and had used around \$200,000 of these funds to support Subject's political contacts inside Iran. Later that same evening, Subject stated he was holding \$40 million which the Iranians want returned.
- Ledeen is a fan of Subject and describes him as a "wonderful man almost too good to be true." He had asked Subject to come to the U.S. to meet with us in order to straighten out his credibility and to find a way to keep the relationship going with him. The number one item in this latter area is his proposed Libyan operation. Ledeen said that when he learned of our Burn Notice on Subject, he contacted him in an effort to have him explain the situation (see Attachment A). He commented that Subject admitted lying to us, saying he could not reveal his source nor explain his relationship with senior Iranian officials. He felt we would not understand his relationship with the Iranian government. We suggested that perhaps a new polygraph would be useful given these latest revelations. He agreed to a polygraph to be conducted in the Hqs area on 6 January.
- In closing out this session, Ledeen made the point that any a serious covert action operations directed against Iran using Ghorbanifar should be run out of the White House not CIA because "it will leak from Congress."

Meeting with Ledeen and Ghorbanifar

- At 2100 hours, we met with Ledeen and Subject at Ledeen's home. After a few pleasantries, we began to discuss Subject's reporting concerning the "Iranian hit team" which allegedly is

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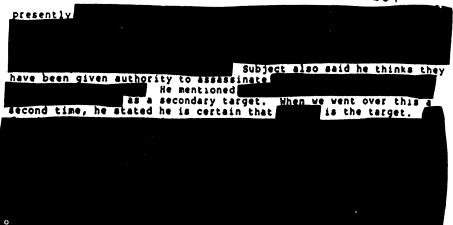
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Subject was fairly reluctant at this meeting to identify ce. However, at the meeting on the afternoon of 23 this source. December, he identified his source as it is the same source who provided the false information last Match concerning an alleged Iranian plan to assassinate Presidential candidates which did not hold up during Subject's polygraph (see

(Comment: Subject's reporting on this learn is very reminiscent of his previous terrorist reporting which, after investigation and polygraph, turned out to be fabricated. It is our feeling there are bits of valid information in Subject's reporting but he has embellished and projected his own feelings in presenting this information as hard fact. This has been a presistant problem throughout the four years we have known him. His reporting has sometimes been useful but it is extrerely difficult to separate the good from the bad information. It is hard to find in the file any instance where his reporting in fact resulted in a solid development.)

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- Subject had no additional information to add at this t other than the fact that this operation is not directed by

- At this point in the discussion, we shifted to his views on the current divisions within the Iranian Government. He described them as:

> line one - rightist; line two - hardline; line three - balancers.

He said that he would like to modify his earlier reporting (Attachment B). He believes "line two" and "line three" are now working more closely than in the past. His reporting on this is not very substantive and did not bring forward any really new - information. He said he is working closely with the "rightist line"

He said that the "rightist group" is not easily discernable because of the physical danger associated with openly opposing the government. Because they are not "visible", it is difficult to measure their strength within the Armed Forces, Revolutionary Guard, Bazar, etc.

At this point, he provided us with a 13-page farsi document

is new information and details in this document which our analyst will find very useful. (Comment: While we are having the document fully translated, the translator's early impression is that the document

does not reveal any new information). Subject went on to say that he could put us in touch with whom he describes as supposedly would

be willing to answer all of our questions provided we give Subject three guarantees:

- There would be no harm done to
- That we would coordinate all our efforts with Ghorbanifar and:
- That we would support

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Re added that this quarantee would have to come from the Director of CIA. He described as being in charge of purchasing weapons for Iran. When asked what support is looking for, Subject replied that we should help him be effective in his lob. (Comment: What we are talking about here is facilitating purchasing efforts. We told him we would review his report carefully and get back to him with additional requirements. It is noteworthy that Ghorbanifar's contact with is very recent and he only raised the idea of cooperation with one week ago.)

- At that point, we reviewed his relations with

1. Subject said he has known for 2-1/2 years
and has developed a good personal relationship with him. He
described a hard-line fundamentalist who is loyal to
the Regime. He said
the office. 2

- Subject said that because of the negotiations concerning the exchange of the hostages for missiles, there has not been a terrorist act directed against the USG since July. He implied that this might change now that the negotiations have broken off.

- Finally, we discussed his proposed Libyan operation (Attachment D). He reiterated that Qadhafi is very much interested in assassinating Muhammad ((al-Mugarieff)), Libyan opposition leader.

In essence, Subject is proposing a sting operation in which the Libyans would provide \$10 million in exchange for al-Mugarieff's demise. Subject believes he would be able to extract these funds from Oadhafi Stage his disappearance. He

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believes that when al-Mugarieff reappears, it would have a devastating impact on Qadhafi's image. He proposed using the funds (\$10 million) obtained from Qadhafi for joint operations against the Iranians or any other target we are interested in.

Both Subject and Ledeen made a strong pitch for a decision on the operation as quickly as possible. We told him that we would review the operational proposal and get back to him quickly.

- Subject plans to travel to London on 24 December to be with his family for 2-3 days. He has agreed to return on 5 January to undergo a polygraph scheduled for 6 January.

- Around 2330 hours NSC staffer, Ollie North, dropped by to say hello to Subject and to talk with him about the problem of ratrieving the missiles from Iran. We departed at 2400 hours and it was arranged to get together on the afternoon of 23 December to discuss further some of his ideas. (Comments: This latter meeting took place as scheduled and the new information obtained during this session is folded into this report -- specifically arranging the date for a polygraph and the identification of as his source of terrorist activities in Europe.).

- Subject is registered at the Madison Hotel in alias, Nicholas Kralis.

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Exhibit CG-50

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Ghorbanifar Polygraph Examination

On the afternoon/evening of 11 January 1986, Ghorbanifar repet a polygraph examination. He showed deception on On the afternoon/evening of 11 January 1986, Gnordanizar underwent a polygraph examination. He showed deception on virtually all of the relevant questions. He has lied/fabricated his information on terrorist activities and has tried to mislead us concerning his relationship with the line inside Iran. He also has distorted for the line inside Iran. He also has distorted for the line involvement in the deal to release the hostages. The test indicated that he knew ahead of time that the hostages would have released and deliberately tried to deceive us both not be released and deliberately tried to deceive us both independently and with

Ghorbanifar provided new information concerning an alleged terrorist plan to attack U. S. interests in the He was also tested on this information and was shown to be lying.

It seemed clear from Ghorbanifar's behavior that he realized that the polygraph test indicated deception. While he commented during the test that he was comfortable with all of the test questions, he said that perhaps the machine might indicate some problems on a series of questions concerning and the rightists inside Iran. He said he had been told by White House representatives not to discuss this topic with CIA because the operation was "too far advanced" and if CIA were involved "it would require Congressional briefings." He went on to add that he has supposedly expended \$800,000 of his own funds for this purpose and has been assured by these "White House representatives" that he will be reimbursed for these expenditures. (Comment: The polygraph operator stated that Ghorbanifar's explanation/rationalization would not influence the test results on the questions being asked in connection the test results on the questions being asked in connection with and his supporters).

In discussing the hostage deal, Ghorbanifar stated he was very comfortable with the questions asked. During one of the breaks in the testing, he commented that the Israelis received the \$24 million as soon as the shipment was delivered and they are holding all of the funds that the Iranians are requesting be returned. He added that the Israelis told him that they had

be returned. He ad Pacifolity Distlessified/Raids nder provisions of E.O. 12356 1684, National Between Council NARNING NOTICE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES

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"doubled" the cost of the shipment apparently because the Americans were involved. He said the Iranians were very upset about the last shipment and might resort to terrorist activities against U. S. interests. He remarked the Iranians have been refraining from these terrorist activities since the negotiations began.

Ghorbanifar is clearly a fabricator and wheeler-dealer who has undertaken activities prejudicial to U. S. interests.

Neither Ghorbanifar nor Ledsen have been advised about the results of the test. Michael Ledeen asked that he be informed about the results of the test as soon as possible. He was called on the morning of 12 January and told that the polygraph operator will be reviewing the results on Sunday and we should have feedback about the test on 13 January.

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COMMENTS ON GHORBANIFAR'S POLYGRAPH

- 1. Ghorbanifar has been polygraphed by the Agency on three occasions. Each test showed deception on the relevant questions. In March 1984, he fabricated information concerning an assassination plot against the U. S. presidential candidates. On 14 June 1984, he was polygraphed concerning information he allegedly had concerning the whereabouts of the U. S. hostages held in Lebanon. All the Agency officers and 1 involved with Ghorbanifar over the years have 10.3 recommended that our relationship be terminated with him. A burn notice was issued on him in 1984.
- In his most recent polygraph on 11 January 1986, the examination showed deception on all of the relevant questions; specifically he
- (a) Lied/fabricated his information on terrorist activities;
- (b) Tried to mislead us concerning his relationship, with the "rightist line inside Iran";
 - (c) He distorted the leadership role of inside Islamic Jihad;
- (d) He showed deception on the question of whether he was under the control of the Iranian Government.

The test also indicated Chorbanifar knew ahead of time that the hostages would not be released despite our providing missiles to the Iraniars. He deliberately tried to deceive us on this issue both independently and with the collusion of ${\cal R}$

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National Intelligence Council

NIC 00473-86 29 January 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

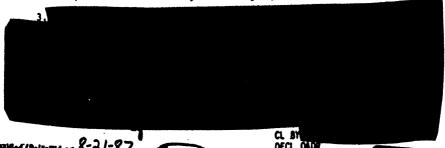
SUBJECT:

Interview with Subject

Subject's Relationship with CIA

1. On Monday, 13 January 1986, I spent five hours with Subject, an Iranian national who has had sensitive contacts with senior officials of the National Security Council. demetwith Subject at the request DY EARTCLEIN'S order to massess Subject is recess to granian Sovernment the deficient from the information that he lights to possess in the definition of the council of the conduct a general overview of the information he possesses, not to conduct a detailed debriefing.

2. Prior to discussing specifics, Subject:stated shat:newanted so explain this sprior relations with the Agency, which he stemed as the stated that he cooperated with Agency officials from 1980 to 1982 but, because CIA only wanted to use him as another source, he decided to cut off all contact. He stated shat the second with Agency of another source, he decided to cut off all contact. He stated shat the second with the same to exploit the second of another source, he decided to cut off all contact. He stated shat the second want to see the second of such as a second of such as second of such as second of such as second of second



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4. In essence, Sobject stated what he was requesting the more principled enporage towards bid by whe Agency. His major reason in asking for a relationship with CIA was to seek its support in a long-term effort to modify the knowling with the proof of the state in the proof of the control of

Areas of Possible Cooperation

- 5. Subject stated that be mished no mork with the uls hovernment and LIA in a number of mreas? Clearly, the uls hast ges the ld na lead to have a high priority. He would continue to work with the White House on this issue; this effort would be kept separate. A second area would be to assist the lead to limit the later of later
- 6. On the first two areas, Subject stated that some issues were interrelated: hostages and the future course of Iranian terrorism directed at the United States. He claimed that the United States. He claimed that the United States. He claimed that the United States are supplyed to your less arrangements again proceed for the Mited States and supplyed through intermediaries its assistant whited States are supplyed through intermediaries are unstabled at the United States are supplyed through intermediaries are unstabled at the United States are supplyed to president Ali knamene; that the United States are uniting approved soppisticated us are all an Intermediate are senior Iranian opposite to secure the release of US nostages held in Lebanon. He was all the senior Iranian officials that a long are are attached that a long are are attached in a long at a senior are attached are consequence and the area of united states are attached using us personnel at a self-interest and machine attacks are specied by area have become against the use of - 7. Subject stated that he had convinced the Prime Minister and the Minister of Oil to trust the United States with Israel acting as an intermediary. Eran mad moon adjoint affiliably praying the means the moon affiliably praying the means the moon affiliably proving the means the moon affiliably proving the means the moon affiliable movement, when we will be more than a more thank the moon affiliably regreed upon a file make missiles are still at Jehran International Airport, wasting pickup for return to the Mest. The Prime Minister and others believe they "were cheated." In fact, nine of the 18 Hawks have the

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Star of David inscribed on them. @UDJECKERtated shat shat shat shold she scribe? Ministerschat profiles ingredeent with shatinited States at a weathed by: 24 standary; who should no songer and the states at a small ted set at a shall she shall say sin she shall say sh

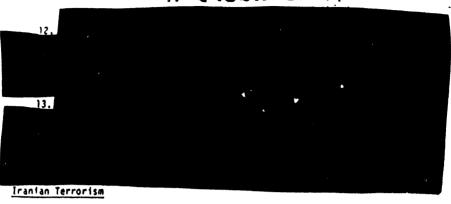
- 8. As far as his personal situation was concerned, Subject expressed no serious concern. Musaviskhamenei and Aquadeh milimme Subject substantial news of money. Approver, that meen photographed in compromising it tuations with mestern moment mere mit to become known. Even though all three individuals are identified with Line Two and have blood on their hands, he has no fear of them. Anatomoraris soubject wis many present measurements with the minited states and many the many many many messages.
- 9. Subject stated that the prime wintster was weady to accept yis assistance, will tary indice, and an unity ficter us presence in Jehran but then the scheating thing accoursed an late november to Musavi-Khamenei's dismay. The aciginal plan was for from to try to deliver not pointy the five us hostages but the two levish ones as well. A uterrorist war any now gase. Subject spoke of activism by Shittes in Pakistan as being a particularly worrisone source of potential terror against US interests. When ranian sevolutionary Guard Corps (1860) team exert tontrol tover the Shitte teaptors of the Americans wall that its medured for the later than the property of the initial way in the description of the later than the second of the later than the second of the later than the later t
- 10. Subject stated that the issue of the hostages could go either of two ways. Musayi-Khamenei hand Agazadeh could ensure the hostages are killed if no agreement with the United States occurrenconversely, sthey gould ensure acrease of the hostages of proper agreements are reached. Subject noted that he feared the Soviets would attempt to take advantage of the current factionalism within the Iranian regime. For example, the record highest wanking afficial analysis within stry of Foreign affairs affi), may be sympatheticato the soviet Union. The United States would be wise not to let this happen; cooperation was essential to ensure that Iran moves towards a more moderate course.



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14. Subject stated that he had four sources of information on terrorism emanating from Iran. His first source was, of course.

He maintains direct contact with who runs a terrorist net of 20-30 people. It is an extremely dangerous individual but Subject can control him. In fact, Subject has paid large sums of money and has information by which he could blackmail if necessary.

15. The second Iranian source of Subject's is

16. The third connection that Subject has with individuals with access to Iranian terrorist activities are two Iranians

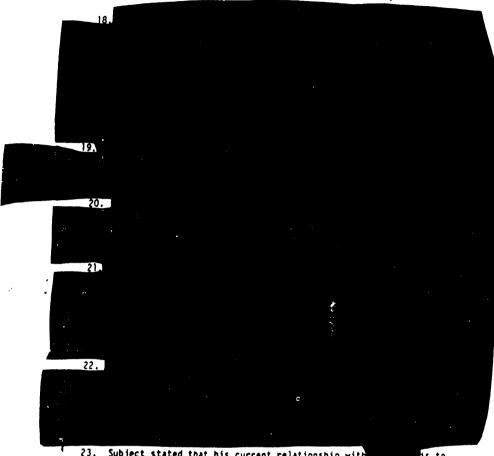
17. Subject stated that his fourth link to Iranian terrorism is

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23. Subject stated that his current relationship with as is to assist the latter with procurement of arms for Line Two. He claimed to have assisted in obtaining arms from In one instance, a plane load of weapons was held but Subject intervened to get the plane released for transit on to lehran. The was grateful for this accomplishment.

24. Subject related a number of instances where he had assist Iranians in difficulty with the Khomeini regime and where Subject related a number of instances where he had intervened to

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The Syrian Connection:

26. Subject claims that both Syria and Poland support Iranian terrorist networks through the supply of arms.

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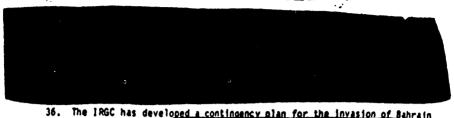
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The IRGC has developed a contingency plan for the invasion of Behrain should it become necessary,

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38. In closing, Subject reiterated his willingness to work with the US government, not as a controlled agent, but as an individual who controls key assets inside and outside Iran that wish significant change in the government and needs US support. Subject made it clear that he and "his organization" wished to be reimbursed for services rendered in thwarting terrorist acts. For example, he stated that handsome rewards (i.e., millions or US dollars) if he is able to warn of and assist in the prevention of attacks on Gulf state leaders.

39. Comment: Subject is a highly energetic, excitable individual who possesses an extraordinarily strong ego that must be carefully fed. Intelligent and clearly an individual who has made a considerable amount of money in procurement of arms and in provision of "other services", he is relatively straight forward about what he hopes to get out of any arrangement with the United States. He deeply resents "his treatment" by the Agency in the 1980-82 timeframe and frequently speaks scornfully of a woman with the name of "Lucy" from the US Embassy in London who met with him at that time. A personable individual, he also consistently speaks of his love of Iran and the need to change the composition of the current government there. It is difficult to gauge just what Subject's "organization" consist of but he appears to have influence over or business arrangements with a substantial

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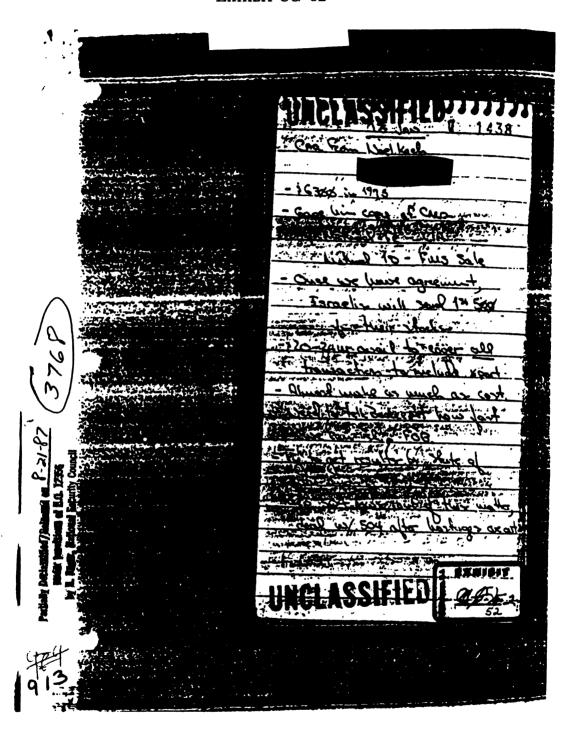
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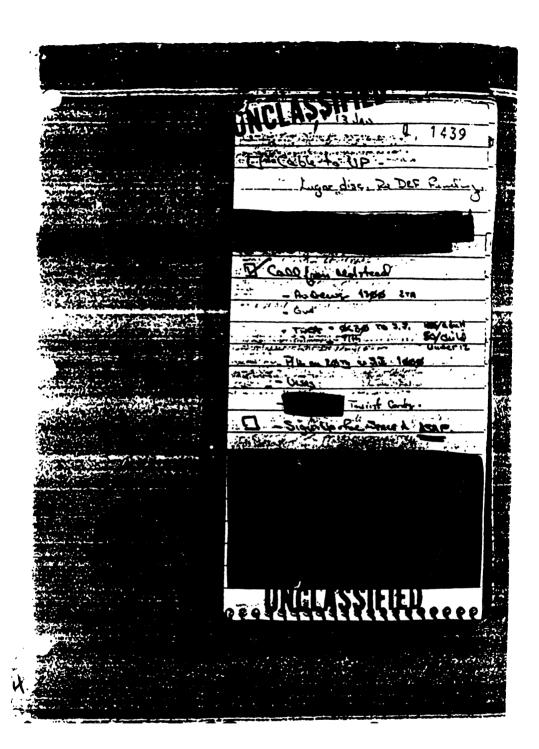
umber of individuals in the Middle East and Europe and inside Iran itself. de have hard evidence that he is close to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Oil, and other senior officials like the latest than the important of the complex plots that he describes. For this reason, the best strategy is to go back over details in a series of meetings so that all aspects of the plot can be determined. This indirect approach takes time but builds rapport with Subject. The worst approach to Subject would be to attempt to lecture him.

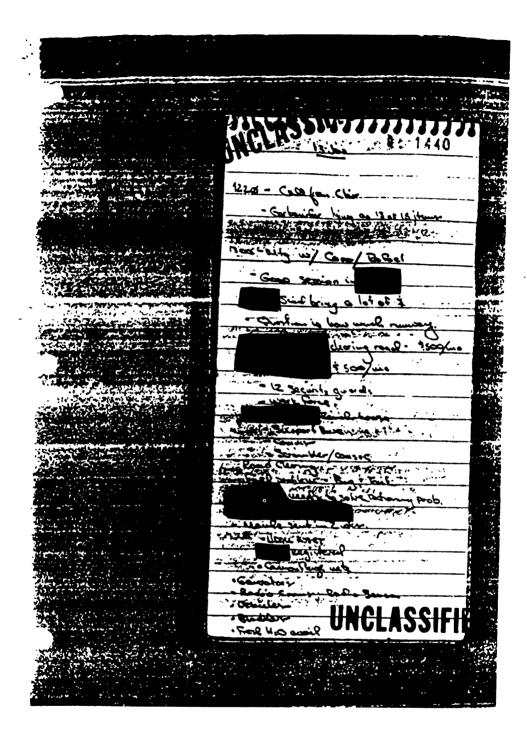
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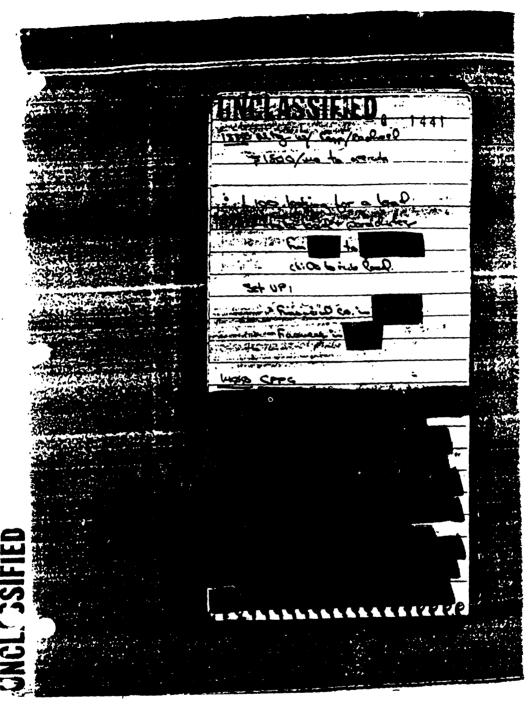
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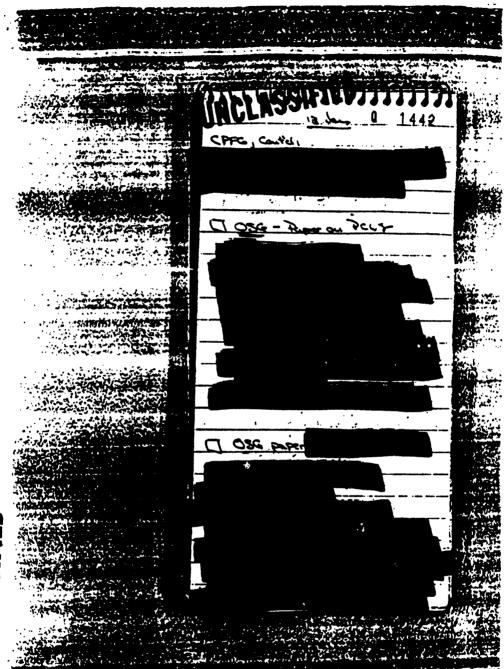
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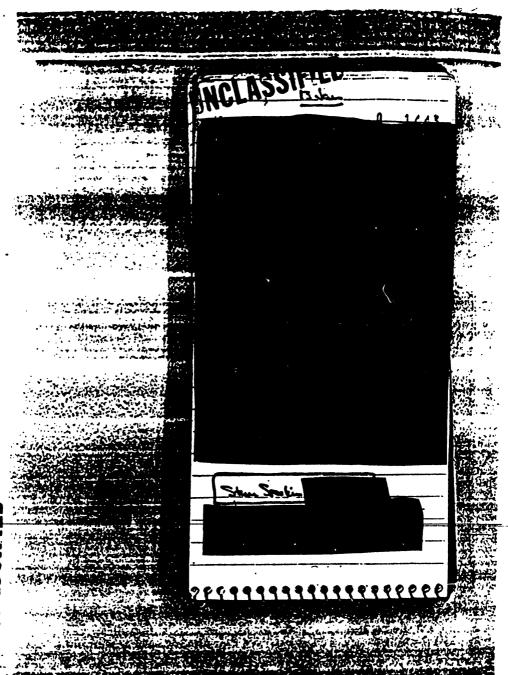




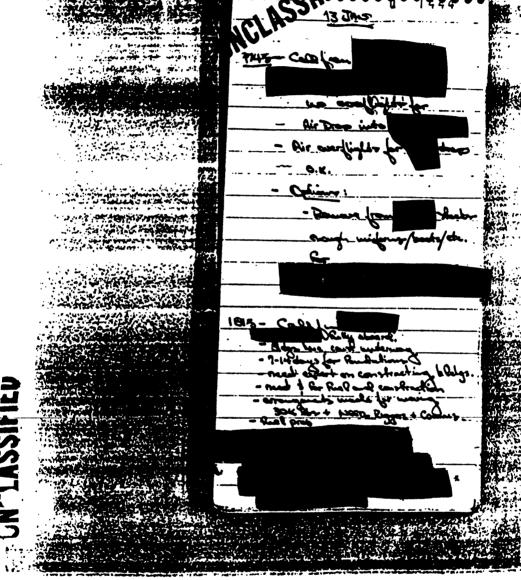




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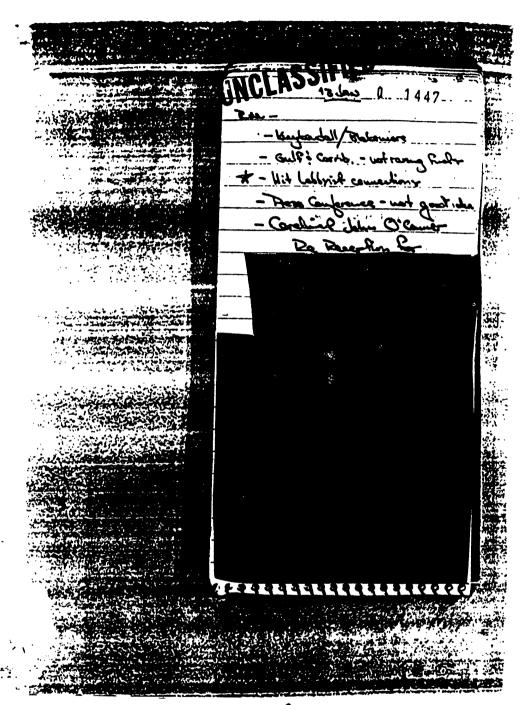
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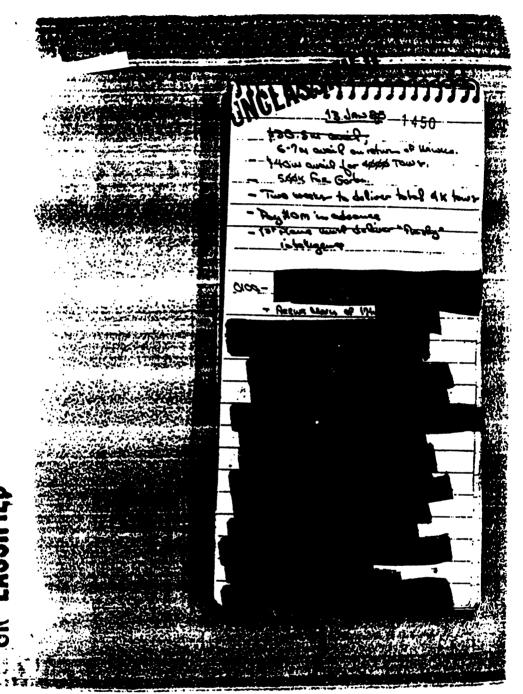
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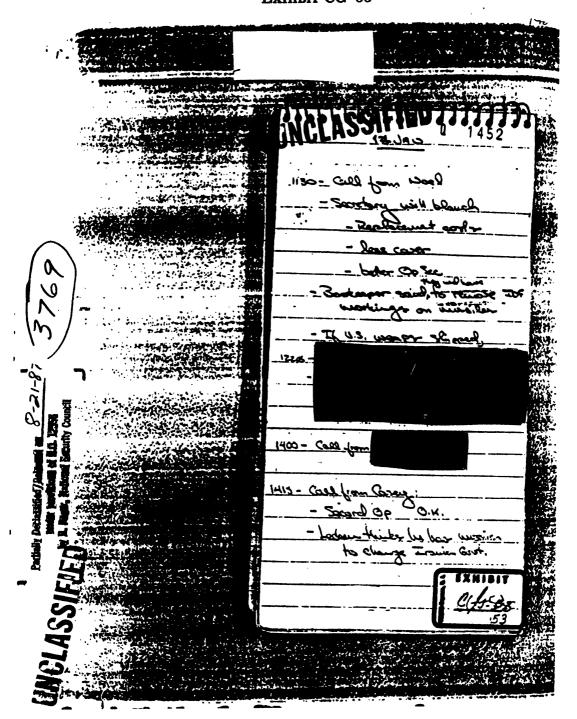


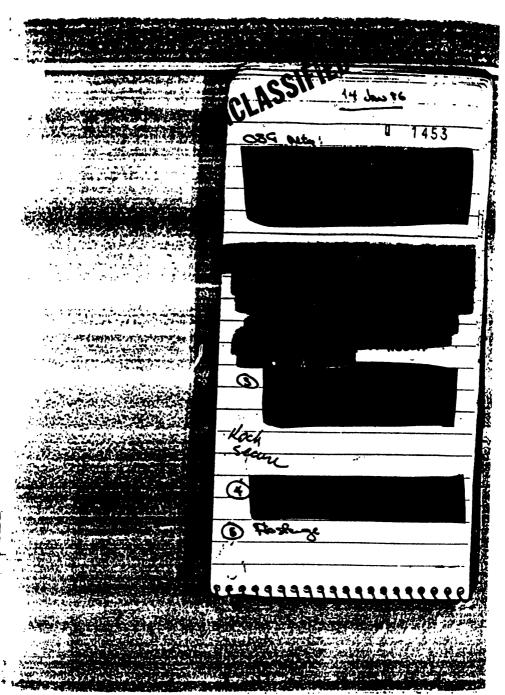
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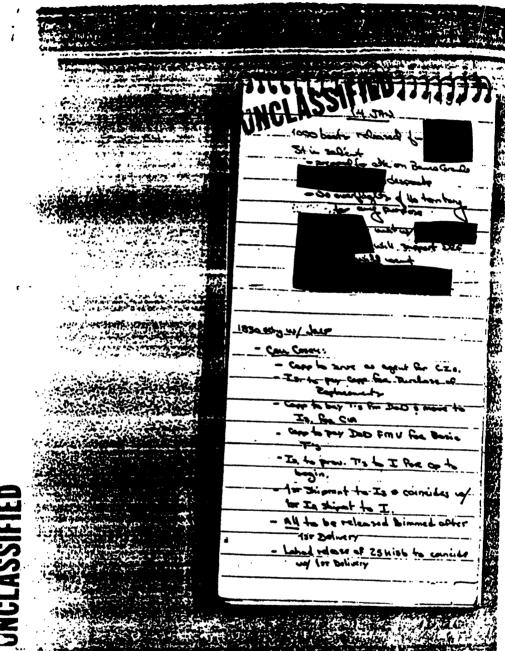


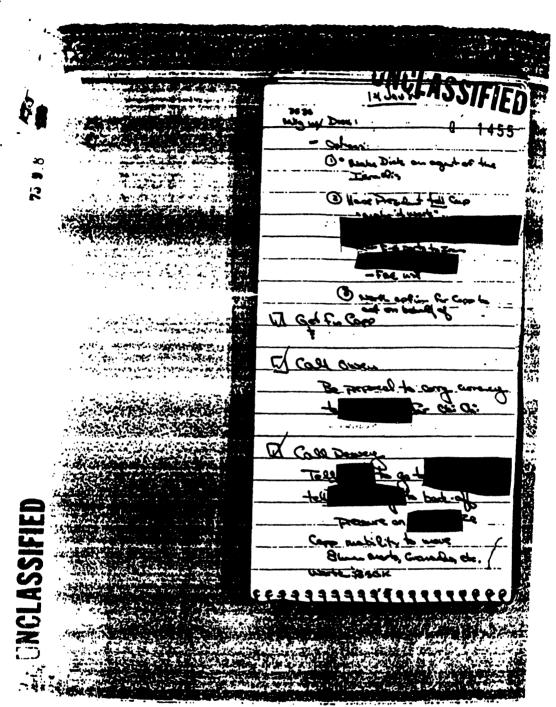
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Ехнівіт CG-53









Ехнівіт СG-54

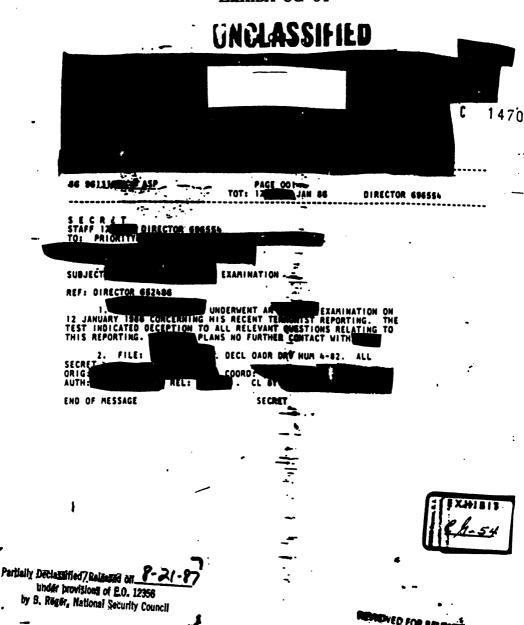
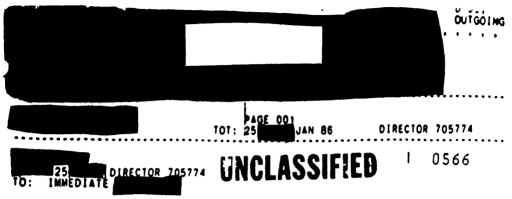


EXHIBIT CG-55



NIACT ISLAMABAD.

SUBJECT: PRESENT STATUS IN SAGA REGARDING THE MOVEMENT OF TOW MISSILES

PLEASE PASS TO DCI FROM DDCI EYES ONLY AT START OF HIS DAY AND PLEASE CONFIRM DELIVERY.

1. A NEW DIMENSION HAS BEEN ADDED TO THIS PROGRAM AS A RESULT OF MEETING HELD IN LONDON BETWEEN NORTH AND GHORBANIFAR. WE HAVE EEN ASKED TO PROVIDE A MAP DEPICTING THE ORDER OF BATTLE ON THE IRAN/IRAQ BORDER SHOWING UNITS, TROOPS, TANKS, ELECTRONIC INSTALLATIONS, AND WHAT HAVE YOU. THE GAME PLAN IS FOR A SEGMENT OF THE MAP DEPICTING A PART OF THE FRONT TO BE PASSED TO SHOW OUR BONA FIDES AND THAT WILL START IN TRAIN A SERIES OF EVENTS. WHEN THE MOVEMENT OF THE MISSILES TAKES PLACE. THE REMAINDER OF THE MAP WILL BE PASSED AND THAT WILL PROMPT ALL THE RECIPROCAL ACTION ON THE PART OF THE IRANIANS. TIMING IS FOR THE FIRST SEGMENT OF THE MAP TO BE DELIVERED LEAVING HERE TOMORROW, SATURDAY, 25 JANUARY. THEN ON THE 9TH OF FEBRUARY, A THOUSAND TOWS WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE MAP AS THE FIRST TRANCHE OF A 4,000 COMMITMENT.

2. WE ARE TO GET THE TOWS FROM THE US ARMY AND ARRANGE TRANSPORT OVERSEAS.

3. EVERYONE HERE AT HEADQUARTERS ADVISES AGAINST THIS

OPERATION NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE FEEL THE PRINCIPAL INVOLVED IS A LIAR

AND HAS A RECORD OF DECEIT, BUT, SECONDLY, WE WOULD BE AIDING AND

ABETTING THE WRONG PEOPLE. I MET WITH POINDEXTER THIS AFTERNOON

TO APPEAL HIS DIRECTION THAT WE PROVIDE THIS INTELLIGENCE, POINTING

OUT NOT ONLY THE FRAGILITY IN THE ABILITY OF THE PRINCIPAL TO

DELIVER, BUT ALSO THE FACT THAT WE WERE TILTING IN A DIRECTION

WHICH COULD CAUSE THE IRANIANS TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL OFFENSE AGAINST

THE IRAQIS WITH CATACLYSMIC RESULTS. I NOTED THAT PROVIDING

DEFENSIVE MISSILES WAS ONE THING BUT WHEN WE PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE

ON THE ORDER OF BATTLE, WE ARE GIVING THE IRANIANS THE WHEREWITHAL

Partially Declassified/Released on 8-21-97
under provisions of E.O. 12356
by B. Reger, National Security Council

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DIRECTOR 705774

FOR OFFENSIVE ACTION.

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4. POINDERTER DID NOT DISPUTE OUR RATIONALE OR OUR ANALYSIS. BUT INSISTED THAT IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SHOULD BE EXPLORED. HE FELT THAT BY DOING IT IN STEPS THE BOST WE COULD LOSE IF IT DID NOT REACH FULFILLMENT WOULD BE 1,000 TOWS AND A MAP OF ORDER OF BATTLE WHICH IS PERISHABLE ANYWAY.

5. WE ARE NOW PROCEEDING TO PREPARE THAT MAP AND DELIVER IT TO NORTH AT 1100 SATURDAY MORNING WASHINGTON TIME.

6. I MAYE READ THE SIGNED FINDING DATED IT JANUARY 1986 WHICH BILLES US THE AUTHORITY TO DO WHAT THE NSC IS NOW ASKING. -ENCE. IN SPITE OF OUR COUNSEL TO THE CONTRARY, WE ARE PROCEEDING TO FOLLOW OUT ORDERS AS SO AUTHORIZED IN THE FINDING.

7. NO FILE. DECL OADR DRY HUM-4-82. ALL TOP SECRET.>
END OF MESSAGE

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Ехнівіт СG-56

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Allen Ex.33

National Intelligence Council

NIC 00812-86

MEMORANOUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview with Subject, 26 January 1986

- 1. I met with Subject for three hours at the Churchhill Hotel in Portman Square, London, on the evening of 26 January 1986. We spent about half this time going over photographs that had been passed to an American official a few days earlier. Subject also described a number of terrorist plots and discussed the relationship that he wished to develop with the Agency.
- 2. Subject began the meeting with a lengthy distribe against the Agency officer whom he met recently by the name of the state of the state of the saked him for Subject's file on Ayatollaham. It is strong Line One proponent in Tehran. He described this request as 'out'er line" and that association with those wishing to change the nature of the government in Tehran was "a very sensitive matter". He accused the Agency of wishing "to go directly to the source" with the objective of "backmailing" with into working for the United States. He stressed that was destined to be a future leader in Iran when the change in government occurs, that he was working very closely with the same in and that he resented the Agency's effort to contact the directly. Subject also complained about the manner in which his recent polygraph had been conducted by the Agency, asserting that there had been semantical problems with the polygraph aparater who spoke no farsi. He said he "felt sorry" for the Agency because of the manner and its officers working on the Iranian deski
- 3. Subject claimed that he had worked with other Trantans for the last. six years at great personal expense and secrifice, endeavoring with others to build an organization inside and outside of Iran that is capable of challenging the Line Two. Subject recounted how much he had suffered since the Khomeini regime had come to power. He said that he had lost "his best friends" and that his sister had been tortured.
- 4. Subject claimed that his organization had such influence he could get subjects inserted into the debates in the Majles. He also asserted that he could get a subject discussed at the Friday prayers by President Khamenei. He

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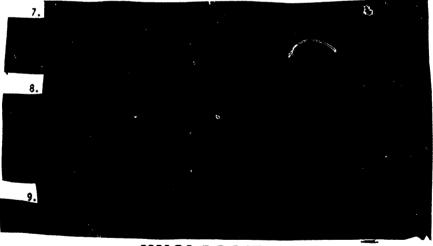
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claimed that "we control the President like a chicken." He noted that his organization is not "a broker of change" but "an architect". He stated he had put his personal fortune and the lives of his family at stake in order to seek such change in Iran.



put out "the word" on him because he would not agree to be "a controlled agent." He also asserted that as an procurement agent for the current Iranian Government, he could write checks for millions of dollars, and displayed a checkbook as well as records of deposits of large amounts of money.

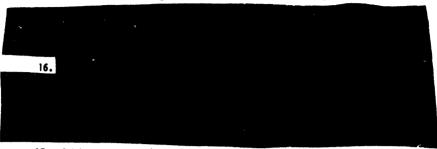
6. Subject stated that he and his organization wished to enter into a relationship with the Agency in order to draw upon its resources to effect change in Tehran. He asserted that "we do not wish to be kingmakers" only the right to be "a small partner" whereby his organization and the United States could work toward mutually beneficial goals. He claimed that his organization had over \$100 million in assets in Iran. With some emotion, he stated that he loved his country and that he wished to return with his family. His whole being was dedicated toward this effort. He compared his organization to "a company" which had certain assets. His organization was more than willing to provide information as part of the bargain; this was understood. Subject described himself as "an unusual individual" who is straightforward in his dealings. He said that he would not "trick" anyone, unless he found himself dealing with deceptive individuals or organizations.



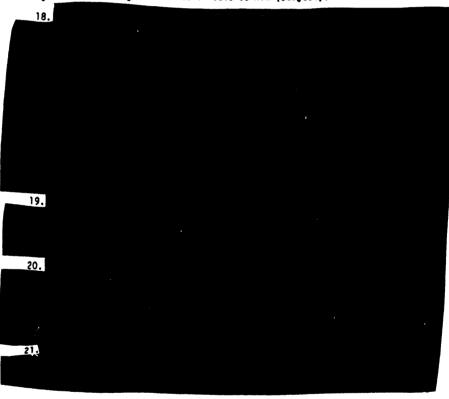
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Pages 3 and 4 denied in their entireties.

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17. Subject recounted problems that he was having with Col. Jacob Nimrodi, an Israeli who runs an import-export business out of Tel Aviv, London, and New York. He commented that Nimrodi claims to be worth \$75 million, including 10 million pounds in the UK Midlands Bank. Nimrodi, according to Subject, is unhappy over being excluded from certain business arrangements with Subject and has threatened him (Subject).



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22. Subject again raised the question of his relationship with the Agency. He emphasized the need for an early decision and noted that "this would not be a one-way street." Subject noted that was gaining in stature but would need some financial support as he consolidated his position. According to Subject, Khomeini may soon step down in order that a proper succession can occur in Iran. And others are urging that Khomeini step down on 11 February but this may not occur until 1 March. Ayatollah Montazeri will be Khomeini's successor.

24.

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EXHIBIT CG-57

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MENOGANDAM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA:

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FROM:

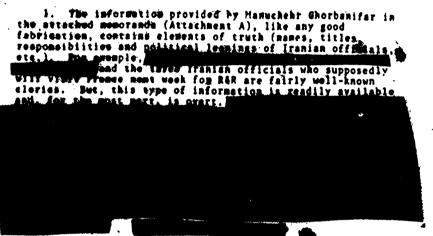
Chief, Bear Bast

Division

SUBJECT:

Comments on Chorbanifar's Recent Meetings with MIO/Terrorism

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2. Chordinifer blee has provided information which is a short and remained inescurate.

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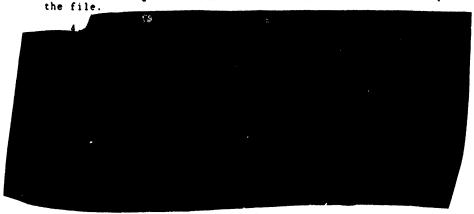
There are two items in the attached memoranda, however, which are clearly untrue:

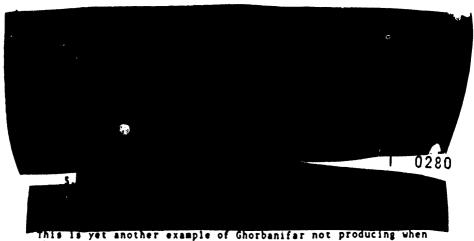
As a result, questions were included

As a result, questions were included in the examination encerning the veracity of these statements. The examination indicated deception on the 1 027 information he provided on this subject. In the follow-up questioning, Ghorbanifar showed himself to be evasive and often reluctant to answer the questions and contradicted himself on relevant points. This was reported in the operator's writeup.

(b)

we planned to test him on its veracity and included in the polygraph a question concerning whether he actually obtained the SAVAK file on ... In the pre-test interview, however, he said that he never had possession of these documents, but had heard about them. As a result, we deleted this question from the testing and no further discussion was held concerning





This is yet another example of Ghorbanifar not producing when the chips were down.

- 6. It is also worth pointing out that each of Ghorbanifar's schemes involve substantial sums of money which he would receive in exchange for his services. In his proposal to "sting" the Libyan Government, he expected to obtain \$10 million and his latest proposal concerning, \$50 million. Over and over again in his file the wonetary angle is present in all of his proposals.
- 7. As far as the Israelis are concerned, it is interesting to note that in the memorandum of 18 February 1984, Ghorbanifar stated he is having difficulty with former Israeli official Jacob Nimrodi. It was through this official that Michael Ledeen was originally introduced to Ghorbanifar. This falling out might be due to the financial arrangements made in the negotiations.
- 8. The major problem with Ghorbanifar's information is sorting out fact from fiction and we will never be certain which is which. While Ghorbanifar has contact with Iranian officials, there are real questions about his motivation and control. It is not at all clear which side he is working for. In fact, his polygraph indicated that he is under Iranian Government control. Unfortunately, the U. S. Government has whanced this fabricator's credibility with the Iranians by warm his are intermediated in the pregnitations for the using him as an intermediary in the negotiations for the hostages.

9. We have traced several of the individuals mentioned in Ghorbanifar's memorandum and the results are contained in Attachment B.

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ATTACHMENTS:
As stated above

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EXMIBIT CG-58

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6 April

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. 27 March 1984

MEMORAN

The Honorade Robert C. HcFarlane Assistant to the President for Mational Security Affairs

C 7490

SUBJECT!

Suppl

Assistance to Micaragua Program

I. In view or possible difficulties in obtaining supplemental appropriations to carry cut the Micaraguan covert action project through the remainder of this year. I so in full agreement that you should explore funding alternatives with the funding alternatives with the should promptly be pursued. You will recall that the Micaraguan project runs out of funds in mid-Hay. Although additional moneys are indeed required to continue the project in the first year, equipment and funding. We are therefore currently examinations of the source of the so

2. The first of these alternatives selected

SHOW THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY
4. Finally, after examining legalities, you might consider appropriate private US citizen to establish a foundation that recipient of nongovernmental funds which could be disbursed toom.

William

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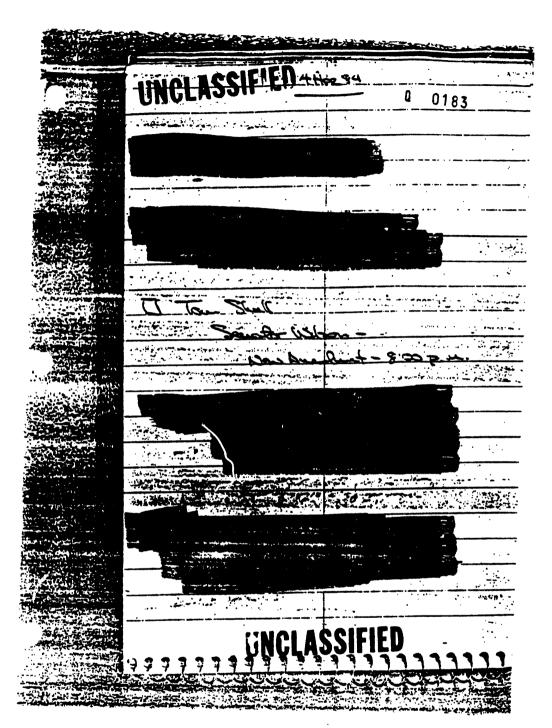
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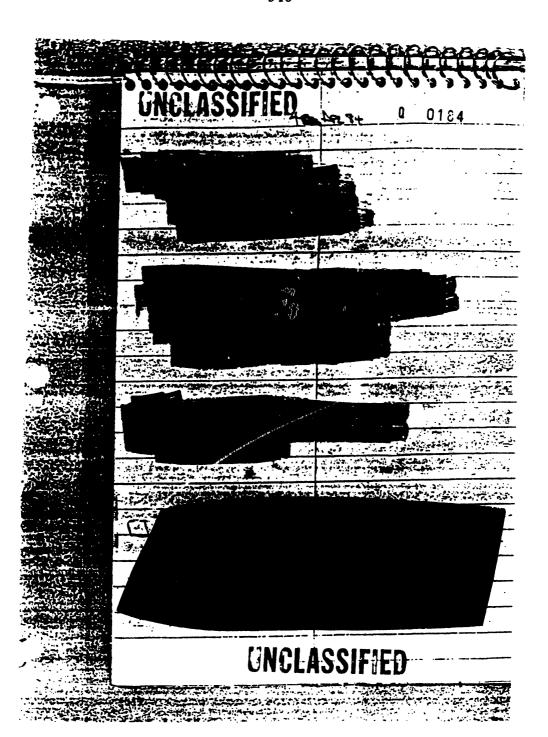


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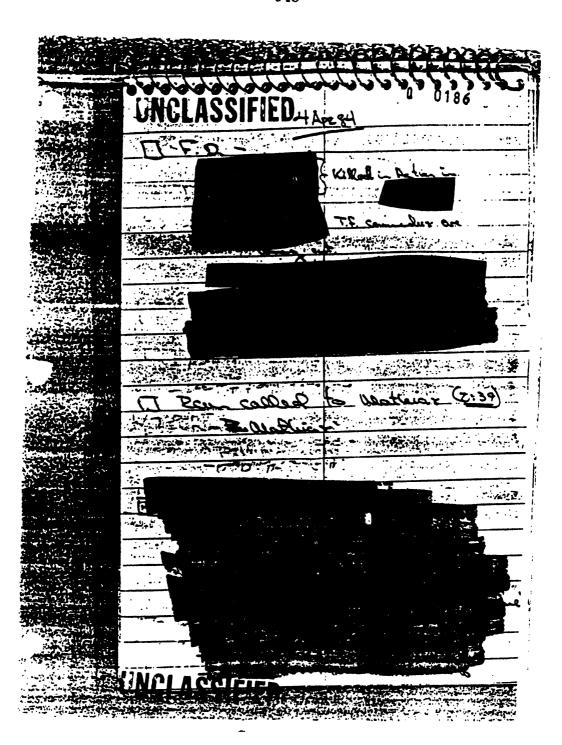
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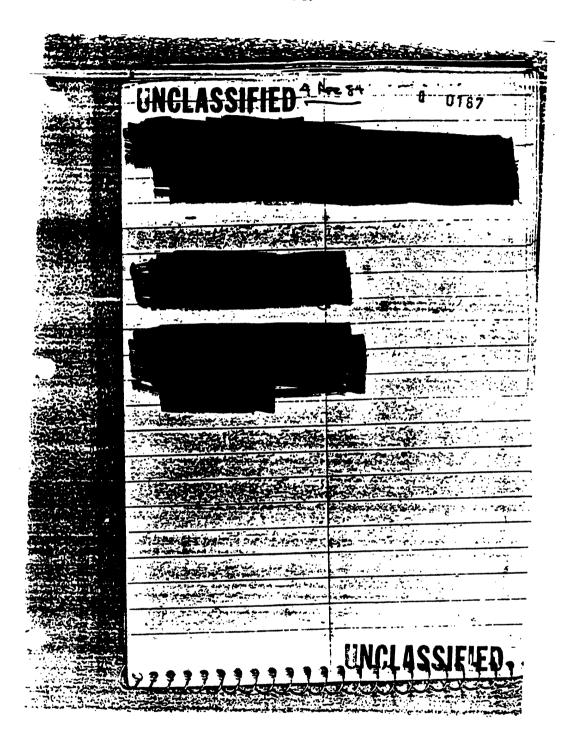
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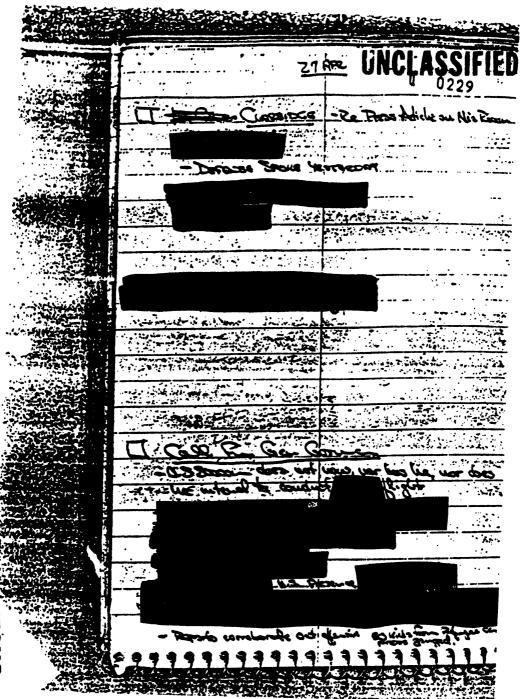
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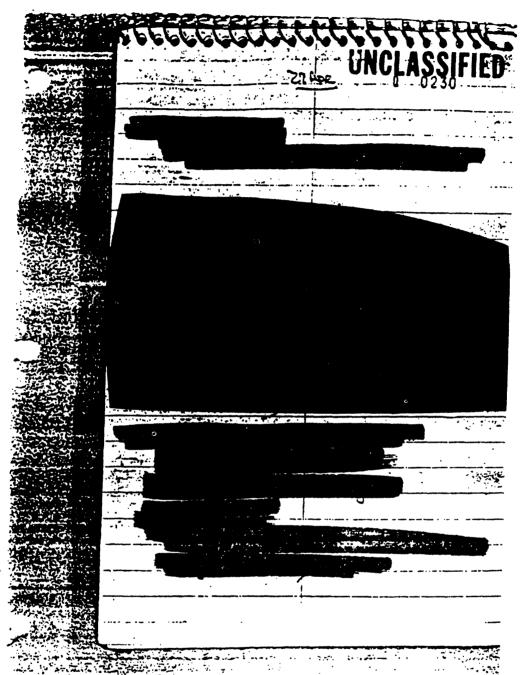
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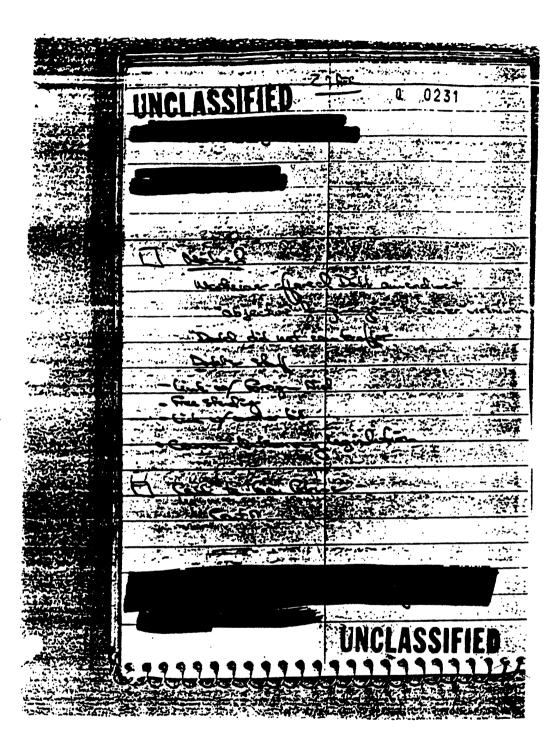
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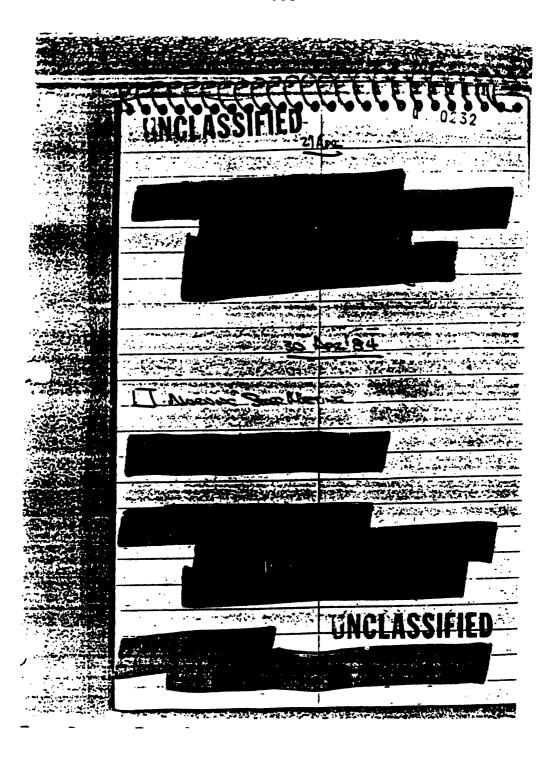


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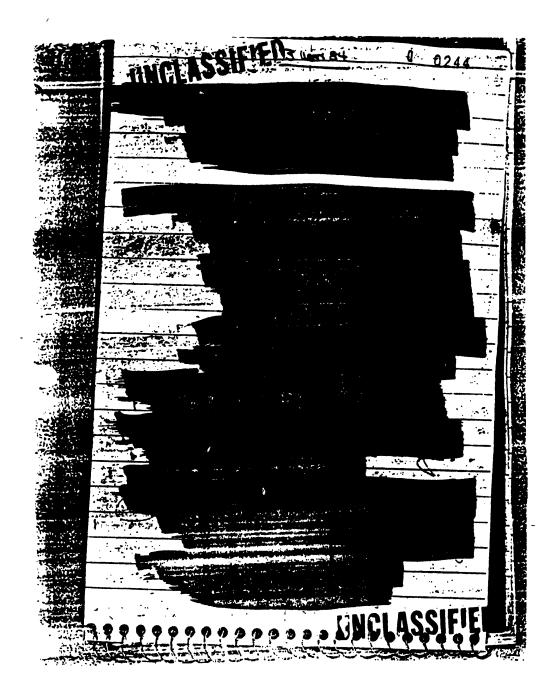




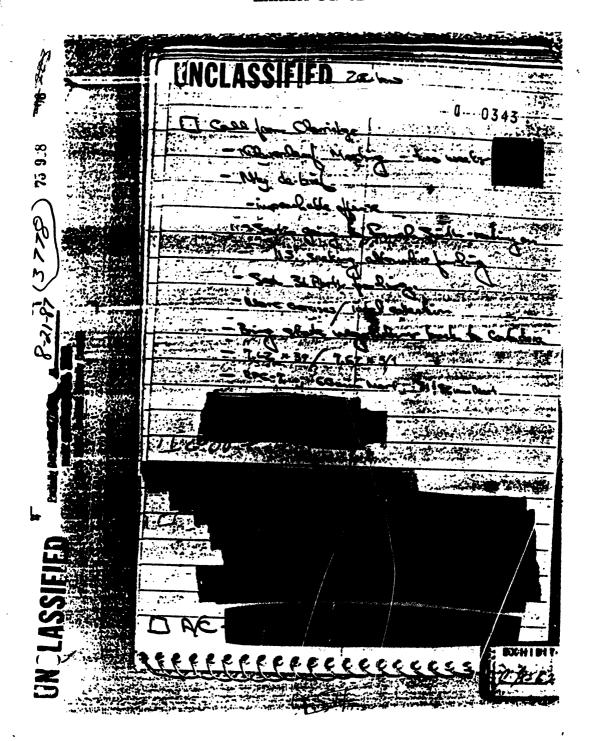


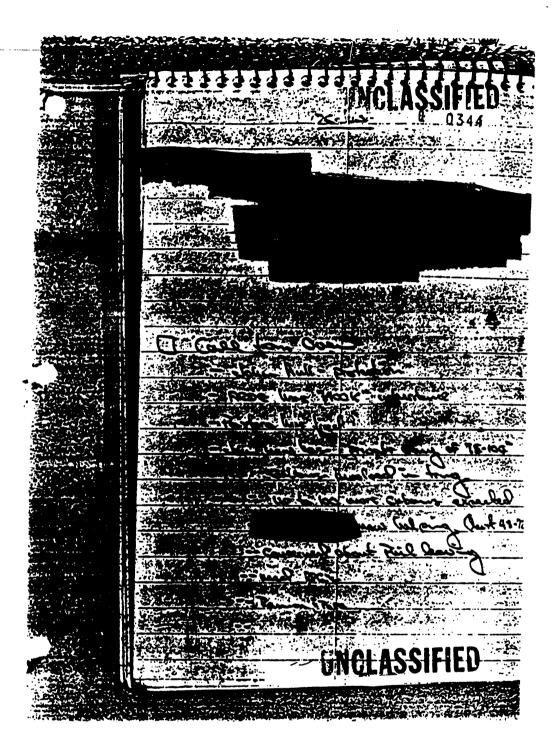
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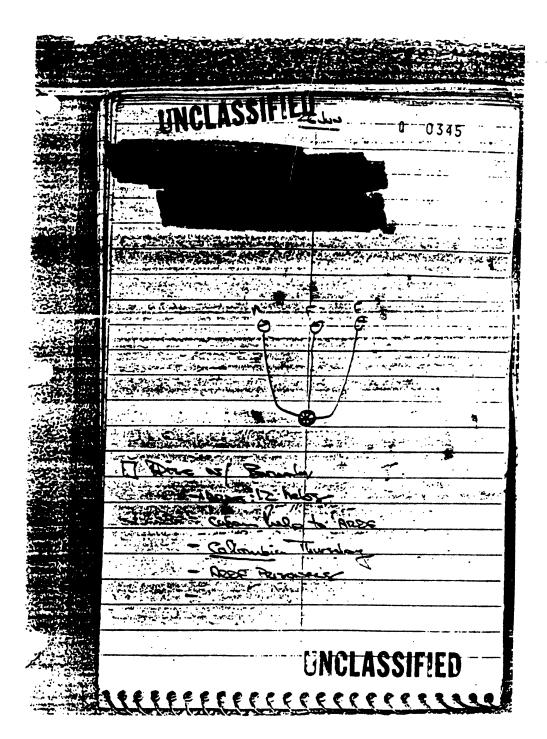
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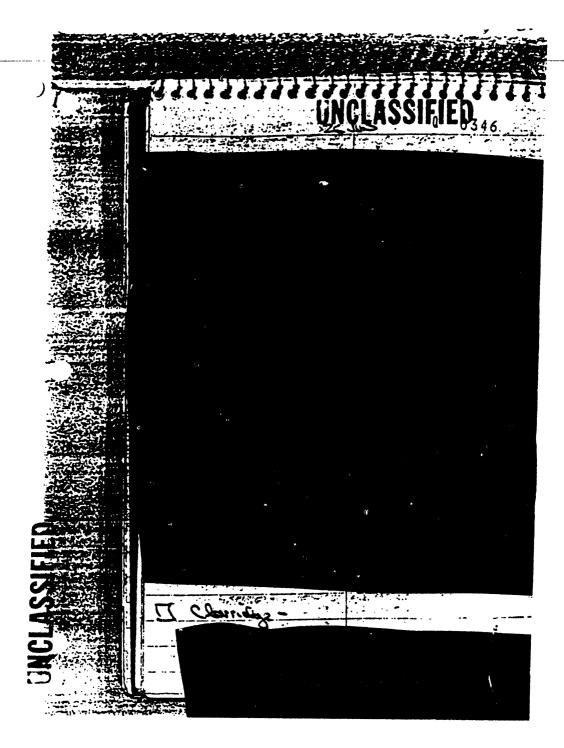


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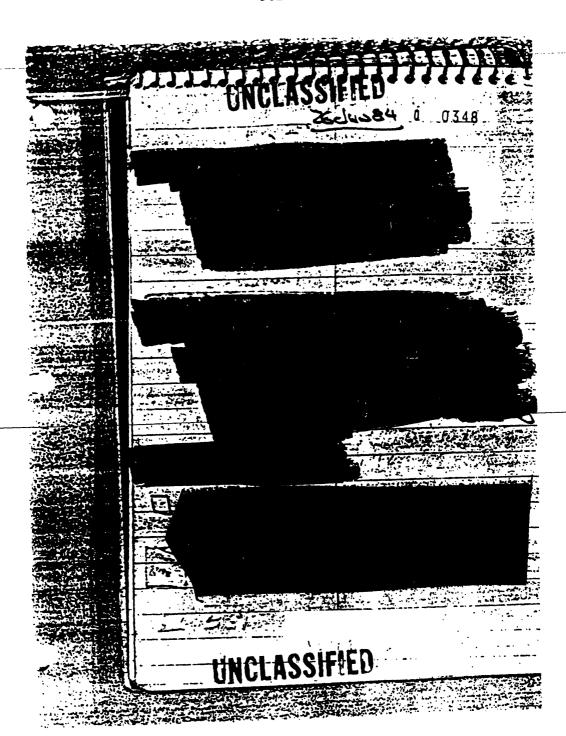


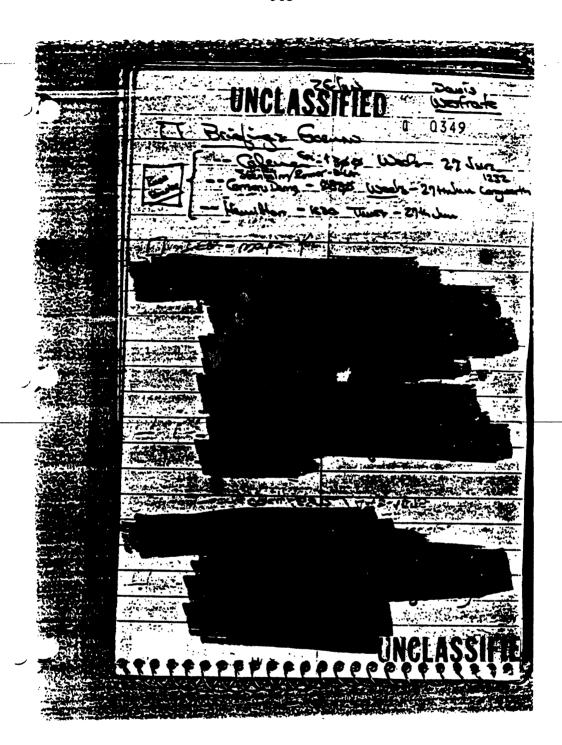


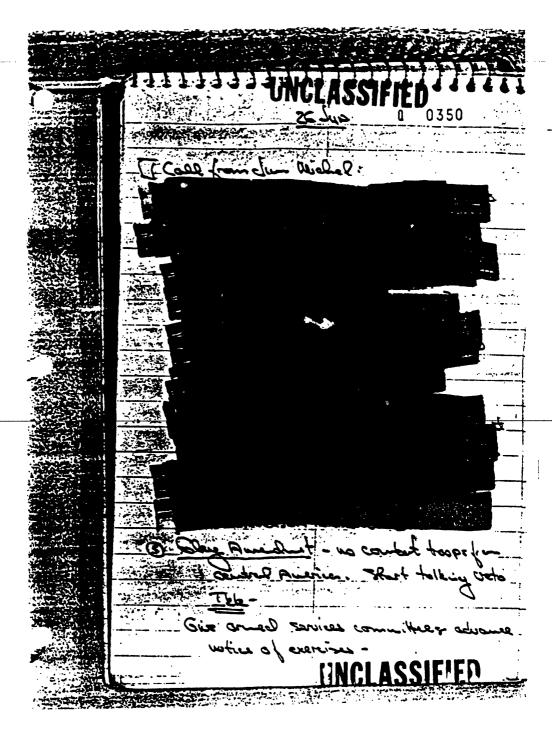




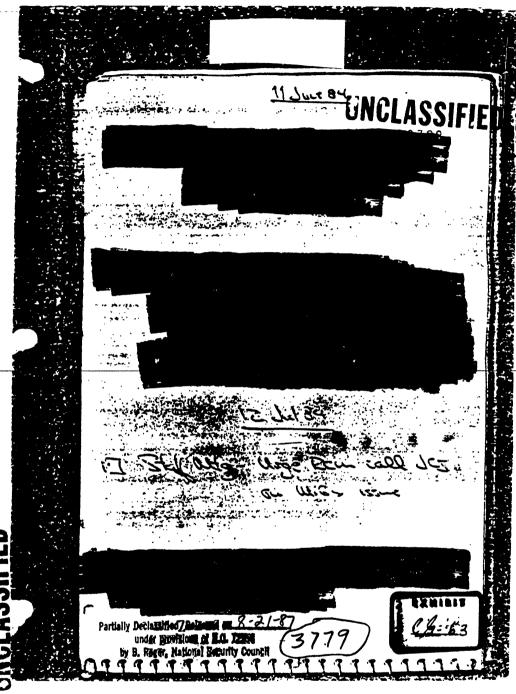
Page Q0347 denied in its entirety.





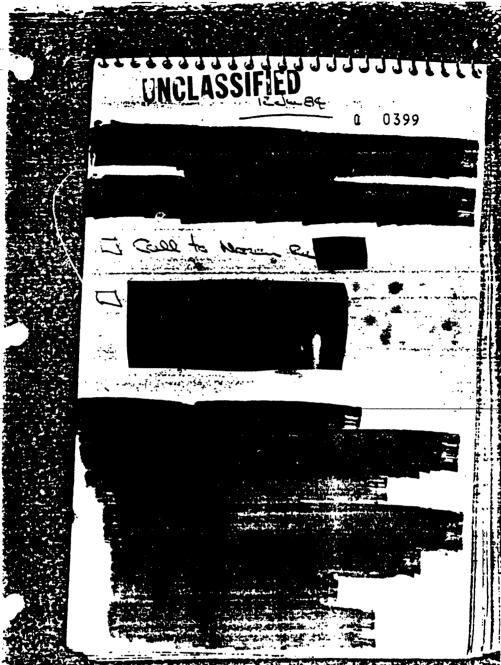


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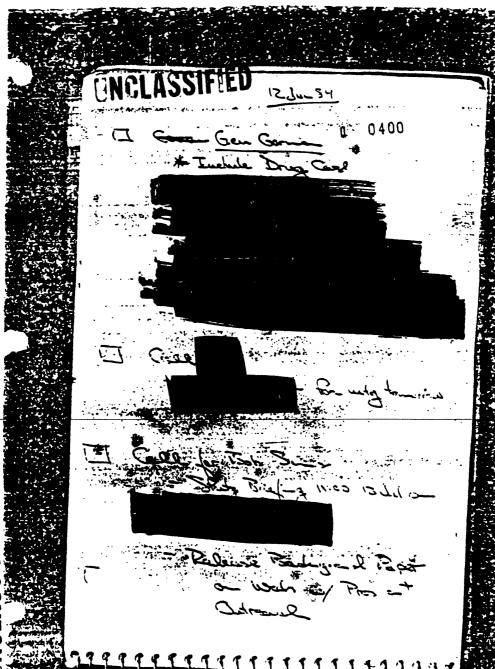


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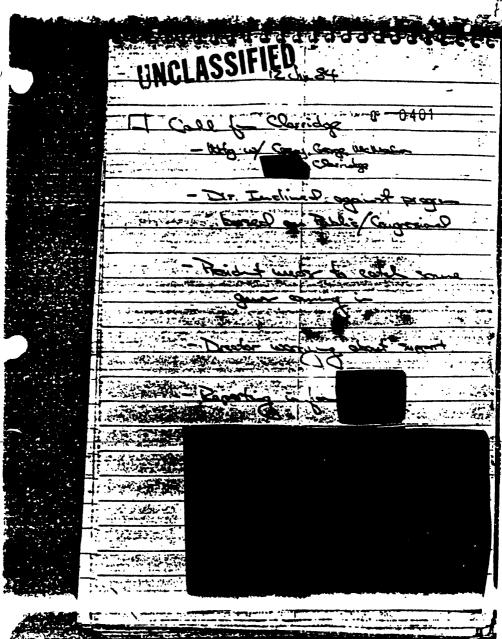
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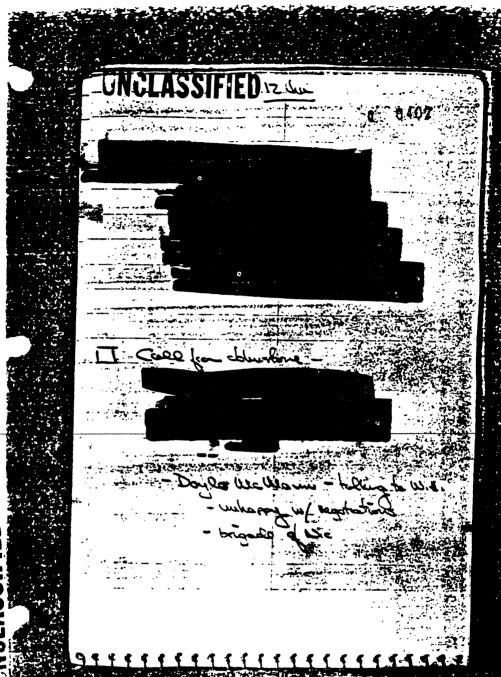


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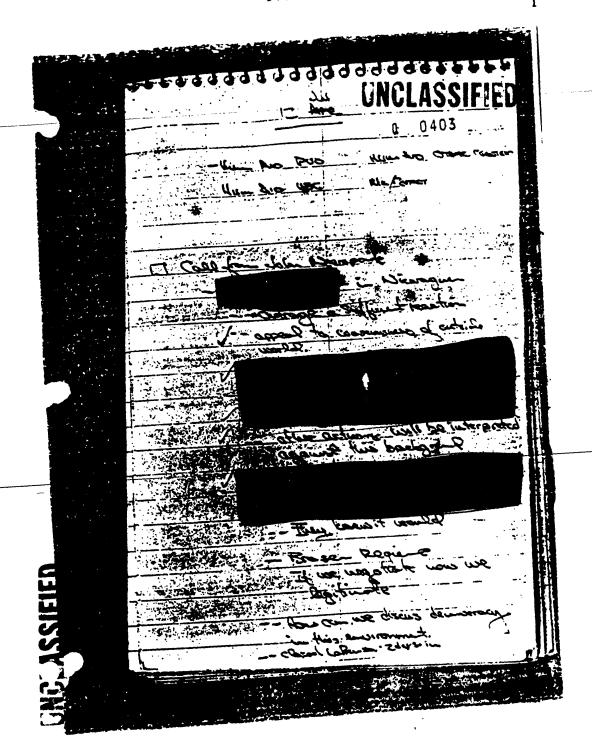


EXHIBIT CG-64

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OiC-84-51747 23 August 1984

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HEMORANDUM FOR:

General Counsel

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Office of General Counsel

SUBJECT:

H.R. 5399'-- Section 107, Prohibition on Covert Assistance for Military Operations in Nicaragua

1. The Director has asked for a legal interpretation of the restriction contained in Section 107 of H.R. 5399, which was recently passed by the House of Representatives. More specifically, OGC has been asked to analyze the effect of this provision on expenditures for staff salaries

In my view, while we plainly can pay all of these fixed costs on the basis of other appropriations, we just as clearly cannot utilize these resources in any activities which would have the effect of supporting paramilirary operations in Nicaragua by anyone.

- 2. In addition, we have been asked to comment upon the use of third countries to continue the Nicaragua project. I believe the Agency can request third countries to carry on the programat their own expense so long as it is made clear that no U.S. funds would be used either now or in the future to repay such a commitment. The extent to which Agency personnel can be involved in soliciting third country support would have to be determined on a cases by case basis. case-by-case basis.
- 3. Although the language of Section 107 differs, only slightly from that of Section 108 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for FY 84 (hereinafter Section 108), the legal effect of those differences is substantial. Section 107 reads as follows:

PROHIBITION ON COVERT ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN NICARAGUA

Sec. 107. During fiscal year 1985, no funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or expended for the purpose or



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which would have the effect of supporting directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in Niceragus by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual.

On its face each by sea very title, the House version operates as a total problem ion on the use of any funds by U.S. intelligence elements during FY 85 for direct or indirect support of military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua by anyone. This language effectively blocks all direct U.S. activities in Nicaragua and precludes U.S. financial support for the Contras during FY 65 by any means. In dissecting Section 107, we are faced with the following restrictions:

- A) RESTRICTION ON TIME -- This prohibition would operate throughout FY85 and any subsequent supplemental appropriations would likewise be subject to its restrictions. Should this language become the final version of next year's Intelligence Authorization Act, as of 30 September 1984, an amendment of the Section would be required in order to legalize spending for the Nicaragua program.
- s) RESTRICTION ON FUNDS -- The wording contained in Section 107 that "no funds available" may be obligated or expended for the restricted purpose translates into a total prohibition on all activities supporting paramilitary operations in Nicaragua that require funding by the U.S. The funds available are not limited by year of appropriation. Thus, reprogramming of prior year funds and releases from the Reserve for Contingencies would be prohibited. Moreover, the prohibition is not "imited by its language to appropriated funds. The broadness of the wording of this section appears to prohibit the use of funds

1/ By comparison, Section 108 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for PY 1984 reads as follows:

LIMITATION ON COVERT ASSISTANCE FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN MICARAGUA

Sec. 108. During fiscal year 1984, not more than \$24,000,000 of the funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or expended for the purpose or which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly "mili*ary or puramilitary operations in Micaragua by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual.

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made "available" to the Agency by other nations, groups or individuals. Therefore, the Agency could not conduct allowed action will another nation, group os set allowed tout the bill.

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C) MESTRICTIONS ON OBLICATIONS OR EXPENDITURES

-- This restriction on both obligations and expenditures of funds available in FY85 not only precludes
Agency againing now for the cestricted purpose, but forbids the making of commitments to spend available funds at some future time. This same language is contained in FY84's epending cap and the question was raised in that situation whether funds obligated in FY83, but expended in FY84, would be subject to the \$24 million limitation. It is my understanding that the question was informally resolved because the Committees reportedly did not intend the limitation to effect funds already obligated. In any event, funds that have been obligated arguably are not "available" to the Agency in a technical sense. To avoid future usestions by the Committees, however, it might be appropriate to urge Congress to modify any final restrictive language in a manner that clarifies this point. Perhaps adding to the phrase "mo funds available" the words "for obligation" would narrow the restriction.2

2/ There has been at least one instance where the language of a proposed amendment required the deobligation of funds and their return to the Treasury. Senator Promire offered the following amendment to the Department of State Authorization Act for FY84-85, S. 1342:

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN ASSISTANCE TO THE KHMER ROUGE IN KAMPUCHEA

Sec. 701. (a) Motwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or any other Act may be obligated or expended for the purpose, or with the effect, of promoting, sustaining or augmenting, directly or indirectly, the capacity of the Khmer Rouge or any of its members to conduct military or paramilitary operations in Kampuchea or elsewhere in Indochina.

(b)(l) All funds appropriated before the date of enactment of this section which were obligated but not expended for activities having the purpose or effect described in subsection (a) shall be deobligated.

(2) All funds deobligated pursuant to paragraph
(1) shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United.
States as miscellaneous receipts.

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C) RESTRICTION ON WHO MAY SPEND -- The provision expressly that the CIA, DoD and "any other agency or establishment that the U.S. involved in intelligence activities Lab Week funds are subject to the restriction this language appears to prohibit use of funds made available to the Department of State, to the extent that expenditure, of those funds would have the effect of supporting paramilitary operations. Section 187 does not, however, prohibit the Department from obligating or expending funds for diplomatic or other purposes in Nicaragua. Although the restriction does not apply to estities not involved in intelligence, such as the Department of Agriculture, for example, any appropriated funds available to those agencies could not legally be expended for unauthorized purposes under traditional appropriations law. Obviously such other agencies are not authorized by law to conduct paramilitary operations.

E) RESTRICTION ON PURPOSE OR EFFECT -- The language of Section 107 requires the Agency not only to refrain from committing or spending funds for the express purpore of supporting paramilitary activities in Micaragua, but also demands that the GIA anticipate the "effect" of its expenditures. Thus, funds given to the Contras that were being expended, for example, to provide humanizarian support, interdiet the flow of arms in the region or assist with public relations efforts, would be prohibited only if such assistance ware determined to have the "effect" of supporting paramilitary activities in Micaragua. While the language of Section 107 itself can be commetted to permit humanizarian aid by U.S. intelligence elements, the legislative history indicates that the bill's proponents would oppose any assistance to the Contras.

P) RESTRICTION ON DIRECT OR INDIRECT SUPPORT FOR MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY OPERATIONS -- The restriction on direct or indirect support for military/paramilitary operations prohibits the funding of any Agency activities which have a reasonable nexus with the Micaraguan covert action program. While the interpretation of "direct" support may cause us few problems, how to define what will have the effect of indirectly supporting such activities in Micaragua cannot be determined with certainty. Rather than drawing a thin line, this language paints a gray zone subject to interpretation. The provision of medical supplies to the Contras, for example, arguably has the "effect" of "indirectly" supporting their paramilitary activities.

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This point takes on particular significance when we compare this year's \$24 million cap with the "no familiar probabition of Section 107. As we were against the cap, ClA informed the Committees that theragency had not exceeded the statutory \$24 million limitation. We responded to congressional inquiries regarding certain expenditures by treating the matter as an accounting issue and distinguishing direct or indirect support from direct and indirect costs. We mated that the legislative history gave no indication that all "indirect costs" conceivably related to the program must be charged against the cap and that we had charged costs in accordance with long-standing Agency accounting procedures. The SECI found no problems with this explanation, but the majority members of HPSCI stated their belief that all direct and indirect costs of the program should have been charged against the cap. 2

The essential difference between the cap and the prohibition is that, in the former, the Agency had authorization for an ongoing program and could expend funds and account for them is some way until \$24 million was reached; in Section 107 no expenditures can be charged against the Nicazaguan covert action program.

The only useful discussion of the meaning of the terminology "directly or indirectly" is found in the House Report on H.R. 2760, which attempted to impose an absolute ban on support for military/paramilitary operations in Micaragua. The language of that bill is

3/ Only one reference was made during the floor debate to the accounting practices utilized by the intelligence community in accounting for FY84 funds. Congressman Hiller remarked:

I would also suggest that the funding is illegal, because never have I seen such asgnificant bookkeeping that can allow this \$21 willion to go the number of months that it has. They are always going to run out just before we take up the bill, but when the bill does not come out the way the intelligence community likes, then they are able to fund it for several months because somehow the economies are worked out. This is the most efficiently run war in history if they can make \$21 million go this far. But we know that is not what is going on. There is diversion of other military sources and there is the saising of money in the private sector to support these mercenaries.

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similar to the wording of Section 107 and may be helpful insufficient who what the House had in mind. 4/ The section 100 minds of the relevant providence authorized support" in the context of support of entities outside Nicaragua which operate which Micaragua. The specific example given to show the the support of indirect support that would be prohibited was tamining conducted exclusively outside Nicaragua if simple in preparation for military or paramilitary accepted inside Micaragua.

The report expressly noted that the section would not prohibit the collection, production or analysis of intelligence. Mor would it prohibit the provision of that intelligence to foreign governments, as long as the provision of such intelligence did not support military/paramilitary operations in Micaragua by foreign nations or other entities.

- G) RESTRICTION ON PLACE -- Section 107 prohibits the financial support of military or paramilitary activities in Nicaragua. Pending for any activity which would take place outside Micaragua but would have the effect of supporting paramilitary operations inside Micaragua would thus be forbidden.
- H) RESTRICTION ON WHO DOES THE OPERATIONS -The restriction against funding applies to paramilitary operations "by any nation, group, organisation,
 movement, or individual." This wording effectively
 prohibits the Agency's funding of such activities via
 intermediaries.

Legislative History

4. The legislative history is helpful only for discerning the spirit behind Section 107. There is no analysis of the wording in 20 pages of floor debate. 130 COMG. REC. H8264-84

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OPERATIONS IN MICARAGUA

SEC. 801. (a) Mone of the funds appropriated for fiscal year 1983 or 1984 for the Central Intelligence Agency or any other department, agency, or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or expended for the purpose or which would have the effect of supporting, directly or indirectly, military or paramilitary operations in micragua by any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual. H.R. 2760, 98th Cong., lat Seas. (1981).

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(daily ed. Aug. 2, 1984). Both those in favor of and those equinate meatriction agreed, however, that Section 107 bans the equinate many funds for military or paramilitary activities in Nicetage Section that the intent is to terminate U.S. assistance to the Chapter.

- Congressan Boland stated in his opening remarks that the 5. Congressman-Boland stated in his opening remarks that the mingle issue is "disagramment on the effectiveness and appropriateness of a particular covert action to overthrow the government of amother nation." Id. at 8266. He later added that "our policy does not strengthen democracy in Nicaragua" and that "(t)his secret was should end -- today." Id. at 8275. Congressman Hyde noted that Section 107 "forbids any assistance to the freedom fighters in Micaragua.... No food, no medicine, no amountion, not even moral support." Id. at 6269. The spirit of Section 107 is abundantly clear -- the House expects Section 107 to end U.S. assistance to the Contras.
- 6. While the drafters more than likely attempted to imitate the Clark Amendment's prohibition on assistance of any kind for paramilitary operations in Angola, 3/ it can be argued that the Section 107 restriction is somewhat different. Unlike the Clark Amendment, this section limits all funds rather than all assistance and it could be thought, therefore, to permit certain activities precluded under the Clark Amendment. Section 107.can be read to allow assistance that either does not require funding by intelligence elements or that does not directly or indirectly support paramilitary operations. support paramilitary operations.

Staff Salaries,

With regard to the staff salaries

Section 107 would

prohibit the obligation or expenditure of funds available to the

5/ The Clark Amendment reads, in pertinent parts Limitation on certain assistance to and activities in Angola

Sec. 401(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no assistance of any kind may be provided for the purpose, or which would have the effect, of premoting or augmenting, directly or indirectly, the capacity of any nation, group, organization, movement, or individual to conduct military or paramilitary operations in Angola unless and until the Congress expressly authorizes such assistance by law enacted after the date of enactment of this section.

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Agency. Set salaries expenditures would have the effect; supporting paramilitary operations in Nicarqua. The question of allocation of these coats, which was an important point under the spending cap, is not an issue under the morning of Section 107. Since no funds can be obligated or expended in F785, no count action program by the U.S. which supports paremilitary operations in Nicaragua is possible.

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Provision of Aid by Tourd Countries

- 8. With regard to the provision of aid by third countries, Section 107 prohibits funding, not discussion. This issue also presents a gray zone subject to interpretation. Certainly asking other countries to provide aid on their own is not prohibited so long as there is no quid pro quo. If, however, the third country expected repayment from the U.S., such assistance would be forbidden. If such a country provided aid with the understanding that the U.S. would provide an equal amount for one of their programs, the Agency would be in violation of both the letter and the spirit of Section 107 and would be open to charges of deliberate circumvention of the law. circumvention of the law.
- 9. The more difficult question is the extent to which Agency personnel can be used to solicit third country assistance. In my view, when FY85 begins, Section 107 prohibits the payment of the salaries and expenses of personnel for solicitation of third country assistance because such efforts would have the effect of indirectly supporting paramilitary operations in Micaragua. Once again, on the spectrum of possible Agency activities to solicit third country assistance, some efforts would clearly be prohibited and others are arguably authorized. Payment of the salary and expenses of an employee whose full-time was dedicated to soliciting such assistance would contravene the restriction. On the other hand, requests for assistance by the course of his normal duties presents a closer case.
- 10. Another hypothetical situation poses troubling legal questions: the use of Agency personnel as couriers for funds provided by third countries to the Contras. While I believe such activity would be prohibited by Section 107 if the courier's sole function was to pass those funds, if that item was a de minimis part of the courier's functions, it could be argued that no funds were expended for the restricted purpose.

6/ If the President tasks the representative of a nomintel-ligence agency to solicit such assistance in diplomatic or other channels, the letter of Section 107 would not appear to be vio-lated, but such action might be viewed by supporters of the restriction as a violation of the spirit of that prohibition.

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il. In any event, under the requirement to keep Congress fully and currently informed concerning intelligence activities, the Agency are required to advise the Committees of any plans to self-contractions.

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In the congressional intent behind Section 107 is to stop covered. S. assistance to the Contras. The House crafted the language of the section tightly in order to restrict in every way possiblely obligations or expenditures by U.S. intelligence elements of the section of expenditures assistance to military or persuifful activities in Micragua. Should that language reasing the finel-deshorization act, in my view, any close cases would be viewed by the proponents of Section 107 as efforts to circuavent the statutory prohibition.

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UNCEASSIFIED

7 January 1985



Director of Central Intelligence

Stanley Sporkin General Counsel

Nicaragua - Legal Options



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- l. This is in response to your memorandum of 5 January 1985 which raises the issue of whether the State Department or the MSC (or someone other than CIA) can go to third countries to urge them to provide financial or paramilitary support to the contras.
- 2. It seems clear to me to the CIA is precluded from spending any funds which would be the purpose or the effect of supporting military operations of icaragua directly or indirectly. Therefore, other in the activities spelled out in my memorandum of 26 December Rus, there is little the CIA can do with respect to third countries is-a-vis the contra program.
- 3. The President is clear charged with the conduct of foreign relations. While it is to me that certain members of Congress would take the view the lany approach to third nations to assist the contra program would belate the current law, such a view in my opinion would conflict with the Presidential prerogatives if it were applied to prevent non-CIA, -DOD, or -intelligence elements from seeking third-party assistance in the contra program. It is, obvious, however, that the specific agency tasked, whether it be the State Department or the NSC, would be the organization to make the appropriate legal call.
- 4. There are two points which should be kept in mind in pursuing this matter:
 - a. The prohibition in the continuing respective is written as a spending prohibition. This is in collect to the so-called Clark Amendment, originally enacted a long which prohibited any kind of assistance to augment be capacity of any individuals or groups to conduct military operations in Angola.

b. The 26 June 1984 memorandum preparates as a result of our meeting with the Attorney General must be kept in France.

Partially Declassified/Released on 8-2/-87

under provisions of E.O. 12356 ov B. Reger, National Security Shamley Spork is Execution Registry
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Attachment

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5 January 1985

EDUCATION FOR:

General Counsel

Deputy Director for Operations Chief, Latin America Division, DO Chief, Central America Task Force, DO

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Support of Centres

The legal memorandum on Contras didn't seem to get at Sue I wanted to see addressed. The question is not whether with other countries on intelligence matters with resident with other countries on the State Department or the Nice legally go to other countries and suggest to them that they provide aramilitary financial and/or paramilitary support to the Contrast is something which the statute says the CIA, the Defense Department cannot provide.

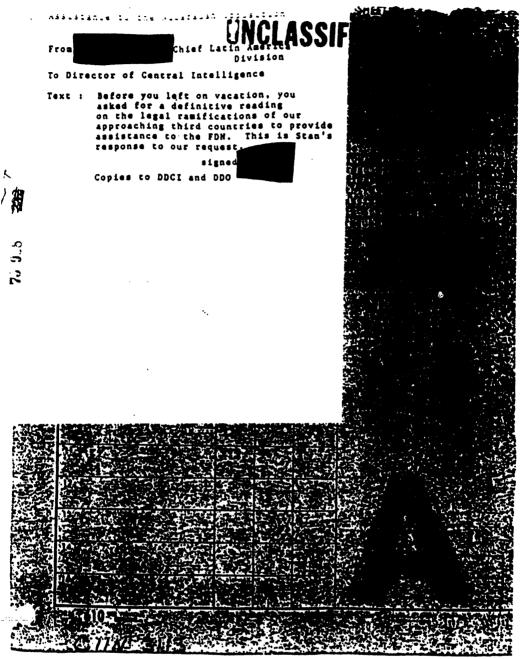
Attachments OGC 84-53482 OGC 84-53485 William J. Casey



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PRO Stanley Sporkin
General Counsel

assessment of Potential for Third Country assistance to the Micaragua Opposition (8)

l. raised several questions concerning what kinds of communications with third countries would be legally permissible regarding their interest in providing financial support to the Micaragua opposition. As will be discussed more fully below, communications with third countries for purposes of intelligence collection concerning their own intentions in relation to.

Micaragua for the current time frame and to study the feasibility of and to construct plans for possible future courses of action in conjunction with the U.S., would be in contravention of the FYSS funding prohibition as lost the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such agency makes it clear to those countries that such agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to those countries that such community the Agency makes it clear to the Agency makes it c

THE FYSS FUNDING PROBIBITION

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2. The 1985 Continuing Resolution contains the following language:

Sec. 8066(a). During fiscal year 1985, no funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated or expended for the purpose which would have the effect of supporting, directly, military or paramilitary operation. Micaragua by any nation, group, organization, sent, or individual.

H.J. Res. 648, 98th Cong., 2d Sess., 130 CONG. 4 411 ed. ed. Oct. 10, 1984).

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Sect... 30(0) states that after 13 February 1985, the President may return to Congress and, after making specific certifications, request funding for assistance to military and paramilitary operations in Micaragua within a \$14 million ceiling. Congress has provided for expedited processing of any future requests under this section. (U)

ponding section of The Intelligence Authoriza-

MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY ACTIVITIES NCLASSIFIES

SEC. 801. No funds supported to be appropriated his Act of by the Intelligence Authorization Act lists (Public Law 98-215) may be obticled for the purpose or which would have supporting, directly or indirectly, military as permilitary operations in Micaragua by any nation, group, organisation, movement, or individual, except to the extent provided and under the terms and conditions specified by Mouse Joint Resolution. 648, making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1985, and for other purposes, as enacted.

E.R. 5397, 98th Cong., 2d Sess. 130 COMG. REC. E12206 (daily ed. Oct. 11, 1984). (U)

- 4. As OGC has previously ed, given the funding prohibition, specific proposals concluded Micaragua should be reviewed in light of two questions:
 - A) Does this proposal records. funding? USCYCTO
 - B) Will this proposal has the purpose or effect of directly or indirect proposing paramilitary operations in Micara ...

The proposal you have outlined, which concerns communicating with third countries to assess their current activities and future intentions in regards to Micaragua and which would aid the Executive branch in formulating U.S. foreign policy, is not a proposal for U.S. covert assistance at all but, rather, constitutes a traditional intelligence collection activity. Indeed, the Congress itself by requesting intelligence information on where the Nicaragua opposition is getting its funding now that I. financial support has ceased, has evidenced the expection that the U.S. will continue to gather such intelligence.

Justice of the continue to gather such intelligence.

So With respect to the first inquiry regardly of the season sending an Agency official (or officials) to contribute the season tries in order to collect intelligence about the carre of lans

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country assistance after 28 February 1985, would require the obligation and expenditure of U.S. funds for salary and travel expenses. Thus, we would have to analyse the purpose and effect of such expenditures. Of course, to the extent that Agency officers say to be a position to obtain such information because of their approach that a position to obtain such information because of their approach that proposel would not even require indeed and the inquiry would end. (5)

If it were determined that funds would be obligated or d, we would then move to the second inquiry concerning the or effect of those expenditures and we would have to view osal in the of communications regarding both present and tiving.

ACTIVITIES

As to present assessments, communications with third countries in order, for example, to learn their current plans in relation to the Wicaragua opposition, to evaluate the alignment of powers in the region and such would constitute ordinary intelligence collection which is not prohibited by the statute. What must be avoided are any inducements to get the countries to provide support for paramility experations in Micaragua while the U.S. is statuted from doing the same.

B) FUTURE ACTIVITIES

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As to assessments required possible future assistance, such a profession will have no effect on current military translitary operations in Micaragua. At most, discussions amount to intelligence collection concerning the intentions of foreign countries in the event a hypothetical series of events occur. If, after 28 February 1985, a new Presidential finding is obtained recognizing the need to utilize third countries in providing assistance to the Micaragua opposition and Congress authorizes the release of appropriations, the prohibition as now written would case to have effect. The proposal to assess filters country intentions consists of nothing more country intentions consists of nothing more country intentions consists of nothing more consists.

This situation would be distinguishable from a counting problems the Agency faced with respect to the guarantee from the first problems the Agency faced with respect to the guarantee from the first part of the

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that collection and evaluation of following interpolation to prudently consider future U.S. options in relation to Micaragua, as well as to develop new plans. (8)

7. Pragnatically, the downside in speaking to third counissue is that any current plans they may have to
to the Micaraqua opposition may be perceived as
ted by the United States as a result of our
it is essential that the Agency make it
third countries that no inducements are being offered in
ifor any assistance to the Micaraqua opposition and that
inces of present or future reimbursement are being
Therefore, I suggest that all conversations with third
tepresentives be fully documented. (3)

sed discussions with third countries, which are intended les obtaining necessary intelligence concerning current activities and hypothetical future plans, would not require a Presidential finding under the Hughes-Ryan Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. While this sort of collection activity, to our knowledge, has never been considered a "significant intelligence activity" which would require prior notice to the Oversight Committees under Section 501 of the Mational Security Act of 1947, you may wish to raise the reporting Essue with the DDO. (5)

anley Sporkin

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2/ It should be recognized that discussions with that may be currently providing support, or which is on their own in the forseeable future, may be subject to interpretation. Consequently you may wish to keep to countries to a minimum and take extra steps to clear record of any discussions that take place.

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27 December 1984

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence MEHORAND

enley Sporkin eral Counsel FROM

Micaragua -- Legal Options

sted, I and other members of this Office, Chief, LA Division/Central American Task Force Chief, LA Division/Central American Task Force Chief, La Division/Central American Task Force Chief, La Division, Central American Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central America, and Michael Matheson, Deputy Legal Adviser, Department of State, to explore the following issues involving the Micaraguan program:

- Converting the current covert program to an overt one;
- -327842
- b. Use of third natural to provide assistance to the Micaraguan resist program; and

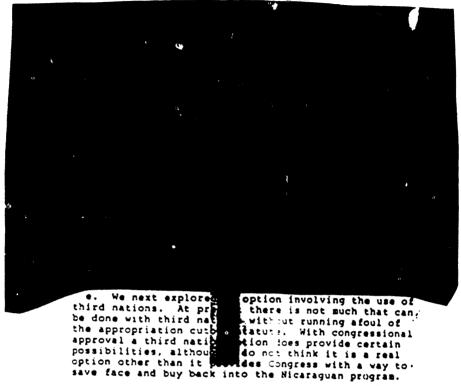
 c. Providing over distance to the Micaraguan resistance sovement and the Poreign Military Assistance Act. Assistance Act.
- 2. We had a very long and designated topics as follows: Mustive discussion on the
 - a. It was the consilitary assistance recognize the s that to employ the foreign recognize the Micaraguan resistance as a juridical body. The State Department people made it clear that the resistance movement does not meet the criteria governing recognition of foreign governments for purposes of the foreign military assistance statutes.
 - b. We considered other kinds of overt assistance. We considered other kinds of overt as we specifically explored the possibilities providing overt assistance as contemplate Boland/Zablocki Bill and concluded that, not justify the very meager benefits the obtained from construction of a wall is interdict arms coming from Micaragua to the st would be to dor.

All Portions Classified Secret

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CIIN 3116





1. The State Department group would like very much to have the attached memorandum and with your permission I would like to send it to Mr. Michel in its present form. They have asked to receive it by close of business, 28 December 1984. While it is a very preliminary draft, I do think it could form the basis for some further discussions. I have provided the draft to muck Briggs and in order to expedite the cress of getting something over to the State Department with indicated deadline.

Attachment

cc: AC/LA/DO C/LA/CATF/DO

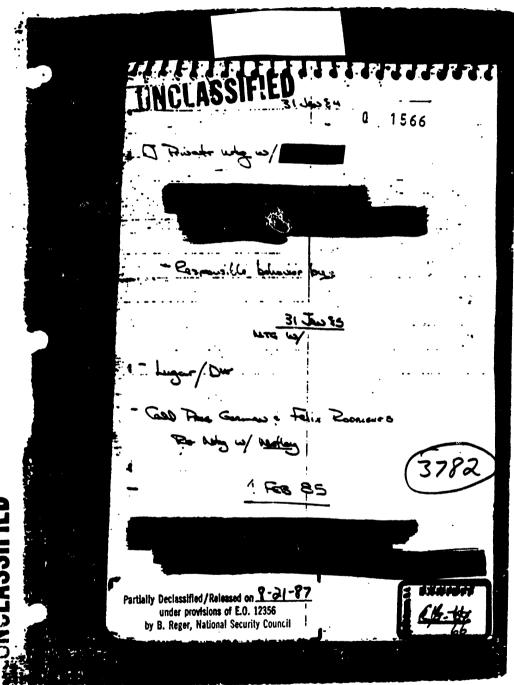
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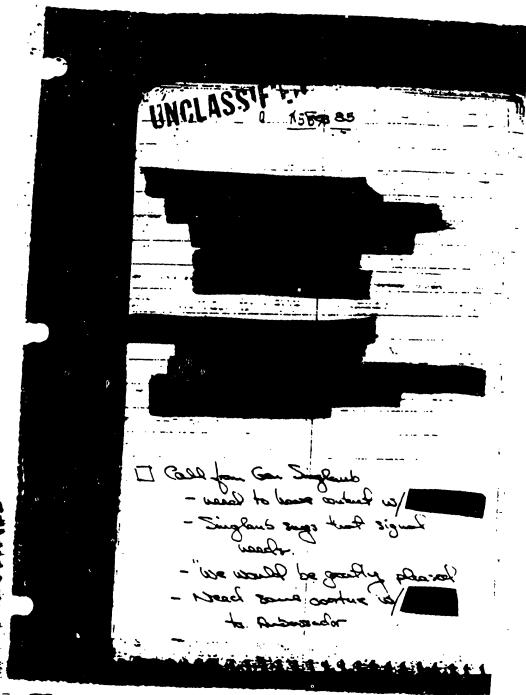
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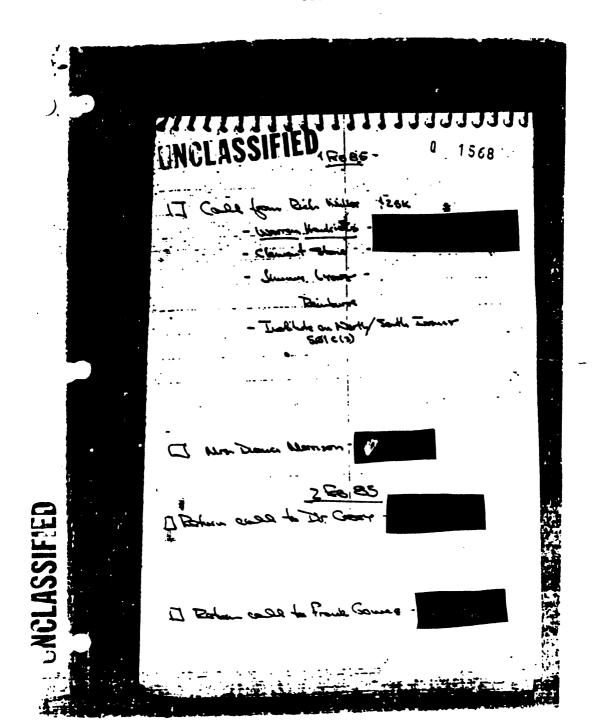
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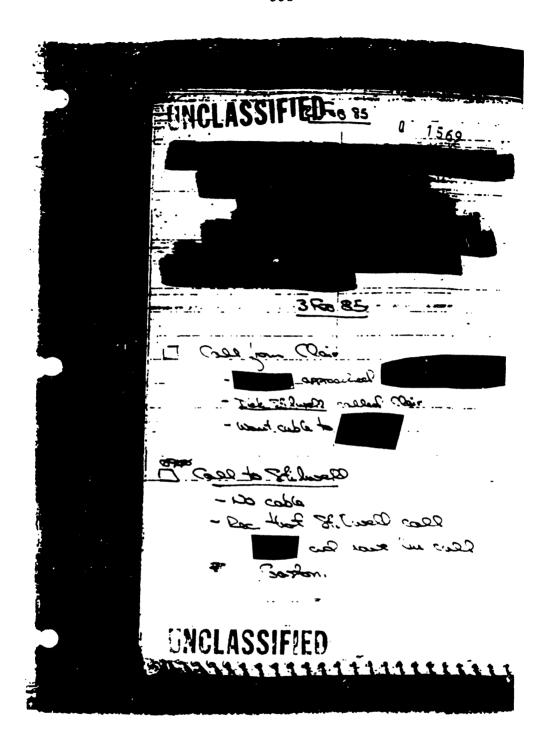


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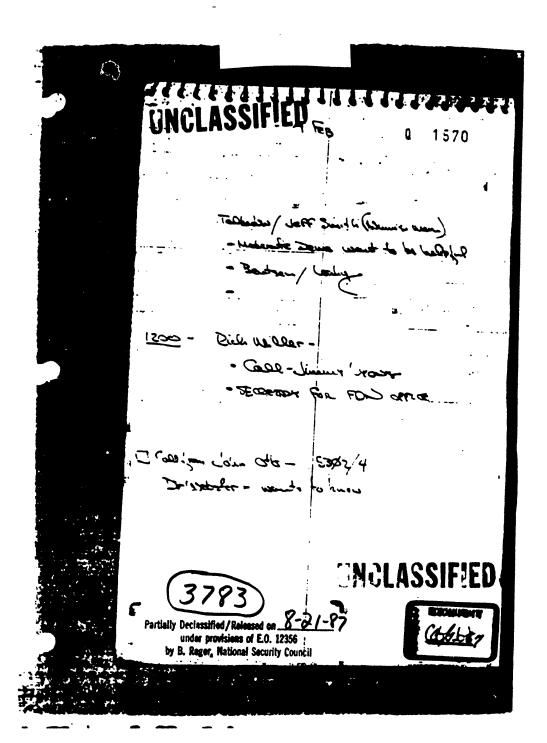


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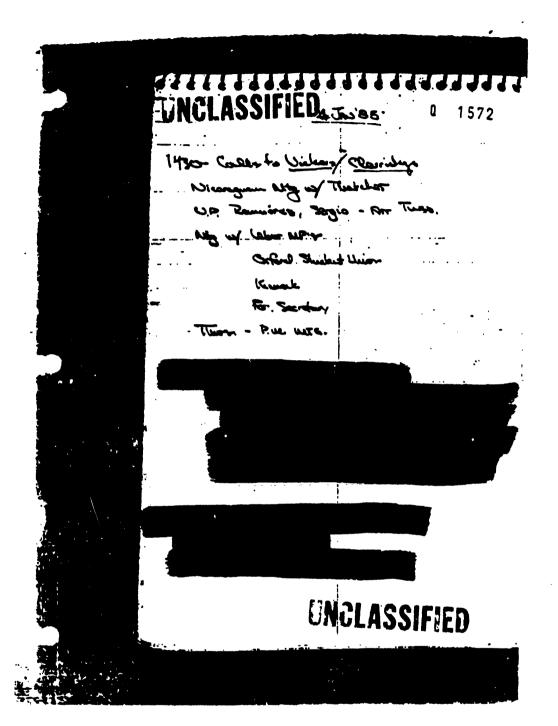


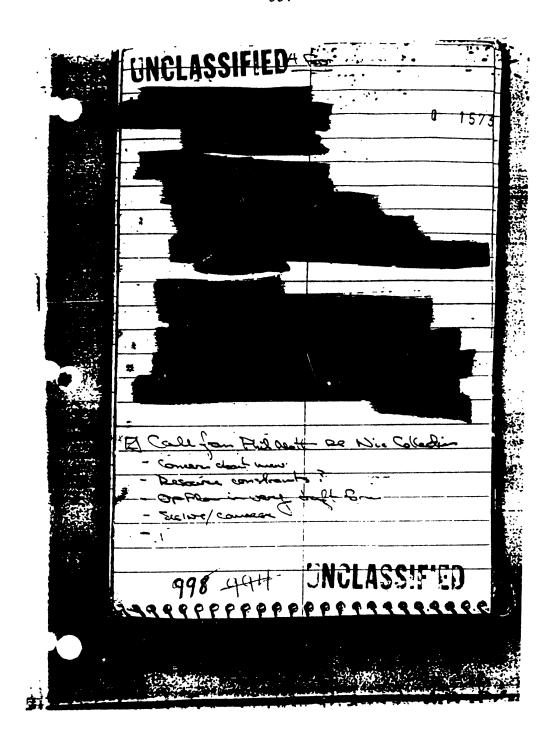


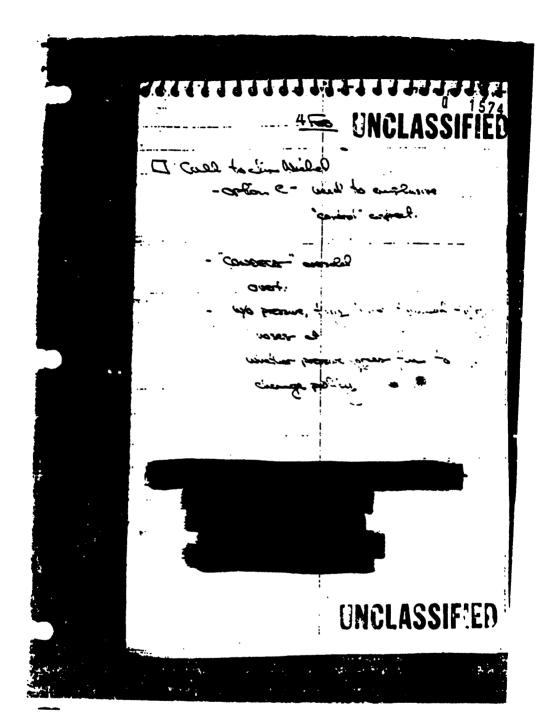
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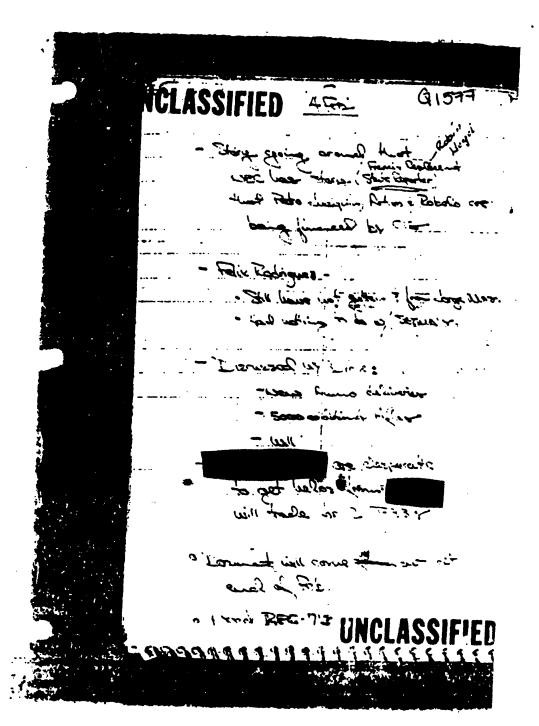




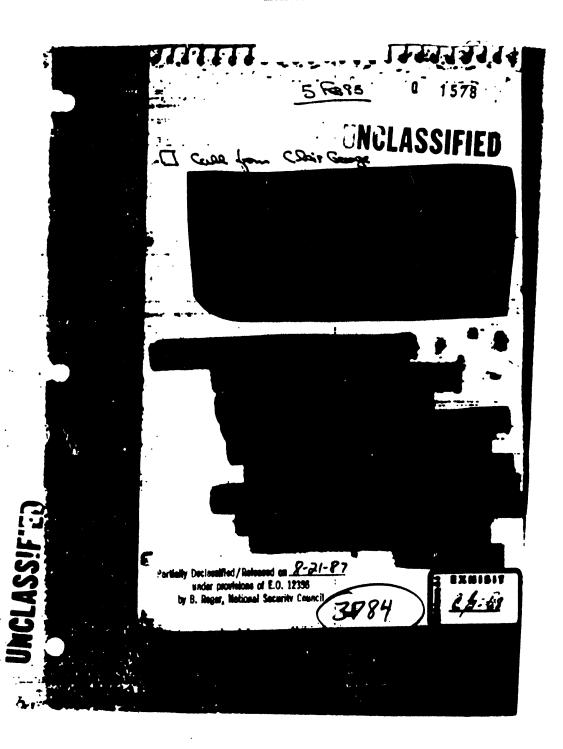


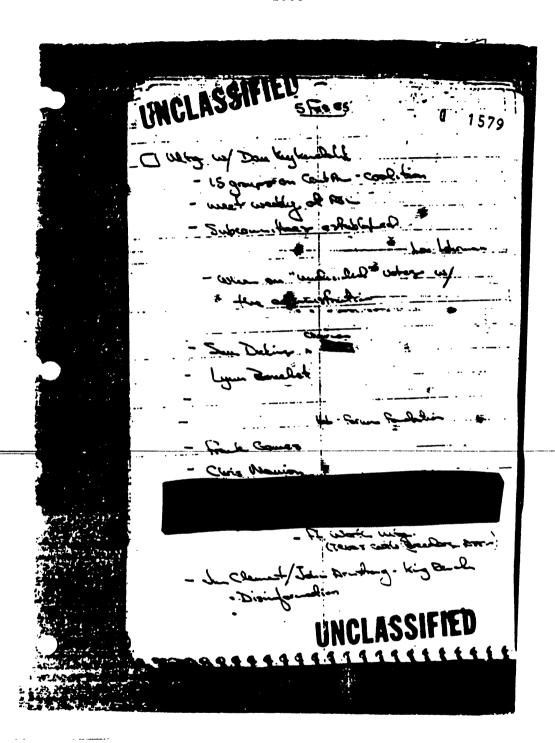
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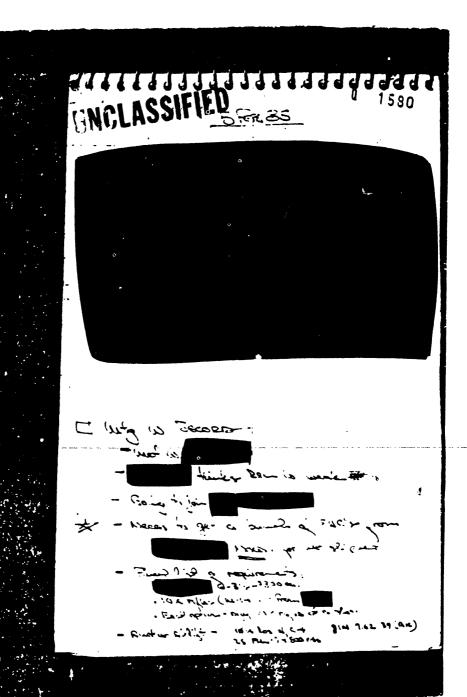
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EXHIBIT CG-69

MEMORANDUM

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

February 6, 1985

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ACTION

MEHORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

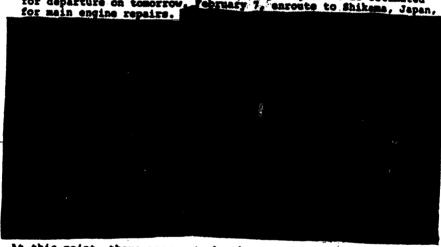
FROM:

OLIVER L. MORTE

SUBJECT:

Micaraguan Arms Shipments

The Micaraguan merchant ship, MONIMBO, is now in port at Taichung, Taiwan, where it is unloading cargo. It is estimated for departure on tomorrow, February 7, enroute to Shikema, Japan, for main engine repairs.



At this point, there appear to be three options:

- -- The shipment could be seized and the weapons delivered to the FDM;
- -- the ship could be sunk; or

the shipment and the parties involved therein could be made public as a means of preventing the delivery.

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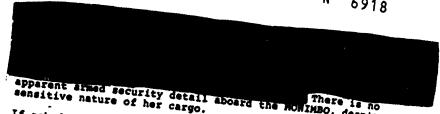
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apparent armed security detail aboard the NONIMBO, despite the

If asked, Calero would be willing to finance the operation. Redoes not, however, have sufficient numbers of trained maritime special operations personnel or a method of delivery for seizing the ship on the high seas.

If such an operation were undertaken, it would be best to seize the vessel as it cleared the East China Sea enroute to Nicaragua's Pacific port at Corinto. Arrangements would have to be made for removal of the cargo for further transfer to the FDN, since it is unlikely that any of the other Central American states would allow MONIMBO to enter their harbors once she had been pirated.

If time does not permit a special operation to be launched, Calero can quickly be provided with the maritime assets required to sink the vessel before it can reach port at Corinto. He is in material necessary to conduct such an operation. He is in RECOMMENDATION

That you authorize Calero to be provided with the information on MONIMBO and approached on the matter of seizing or sinking the

	seizing or sinking th
Approve	
	Disapprove
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MEMORANDUM

UNCEASSREED NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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February 6, 1985

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ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLAME

N 7013

PROM:

OLIVER L. MORTE

SUBJECT:

Cable to President Suaso of Bonduras

Attached at Tab I is a memo from you to Secretaries Shultz and Weinberger, Director Casey, and General Vessey requesting their concurrence in a proposed backchannel cable to President Suazo from President Reagan (Tab A). The cable is intended to emphasize for President Suazo our support in the event of a Sandinista attack

Since we originally reported on January 25, the HUMINT and SIGINT indications of an attack,

have been sporadically firing into Honduras with their artillery and rockets. GEM Paul Gorman delivered to the Pentagon on Monday, February 4, two 122mm rocket assemblies taken from their point of impact in Honduras. The intelligence at Tab II pertains.

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At this point, two steps need to be urgently taken:

- The FDN is in urgent need of near-term financing--approximat \$2M--for the purchase of rifles, amounttion, and boots for the new volunteers.
- The Hondurans need to be stiffened with assurances from the United States that we will meet our responsibilities under-existing treaties.

Regarding the first matter, as a consequence of GEN Singlaub's recent trip, both and the have recent trip, both indicated to help in a "big way. that they want to help in a big way. (CIA) has withheld the dissemination of these offers and contacted me privately to assure that they will not become common knowledge. Singlaub will be here to see me tomorrow. With your permission, I will ask him to approach the Laboratory Laboratory Laboratory Droceed with their offer. Singlaub would then put Calero in direct contact with each of these officers. No White House/NSC solicitation would be made. Des deals singlaub to the laboratory U.S. Con (CIA) has withheld the at whicher **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That you sign and transmit the memo at Tab I.

Approve	Disapprove	
---------	------------	--

That you authorize me to proceed as indicated with GEN Singlaub.

Approve	Disapprove

Attachments

I - McFarlane Hemo to Shultz/Weinberger/Casey/Vessey

Tab A - Proposed Backchannel Cable to Suazo

Tab III - Photograph Tab IV - Background Cables

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Ехнівіт CG-70

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25 February 1985

HENORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

SUBJECT: N

Meeting with RADM John Poindexter, 21. February 1965

2.

3. Poindexter indicated that the Tuesday "family luncheon" would focus only on Micaragua and what to do to get funding for the Contras, noted that we are rapidly running out of time, particularly in light of the massive buildup of materiel and mannover which the Sandinistas are

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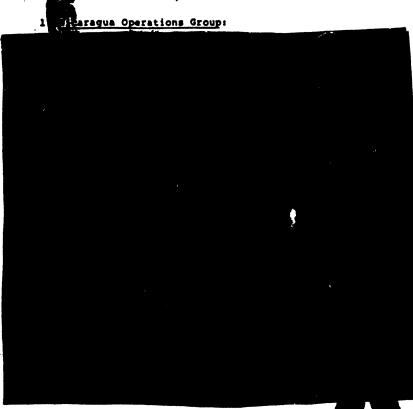
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SUBJECT Weekly Central

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Situation Report



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EXHIBIT CG-71

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INTERPRETATION OF

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WARNING NOTICE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED C 0,945

MEMORANDUM For: Assistant to the President for Mational Security Affairs

SUBJECT:

Orged Purchase of Armson on Behalf of the C.I.A.

for Shipment to

THIS IS AN INFORMATION REPORT, NOT PINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE

2. In early January 1985 a representative of "Transamerican Limited," a Canadian arms trading complay in Montreal purchasing arms for shipment to Among the Item purchased were 45 SA-7 missiles (at US\$ 32,000 each), 1,000 kg-7's, 1"5 million rounds of 7.62x35 ammunition and 100 75MM recolless rifles. Buying the material Jub half of an American named Richard Secor, a retired U.S. Armya@mralum
Secor heavily implied that he was making the purchases for the central Intelligence Agency.

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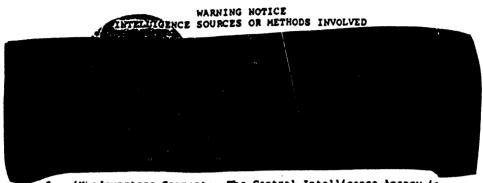
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5. (Headquarters Comment: The Central Intelligence Agency is not in contact with Richard Secor, who is a retired Air Force Major General.)

Clair E. Deputy Director for

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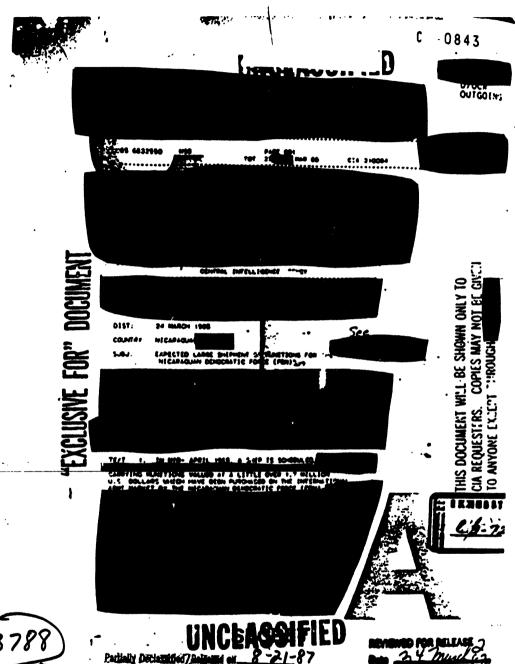


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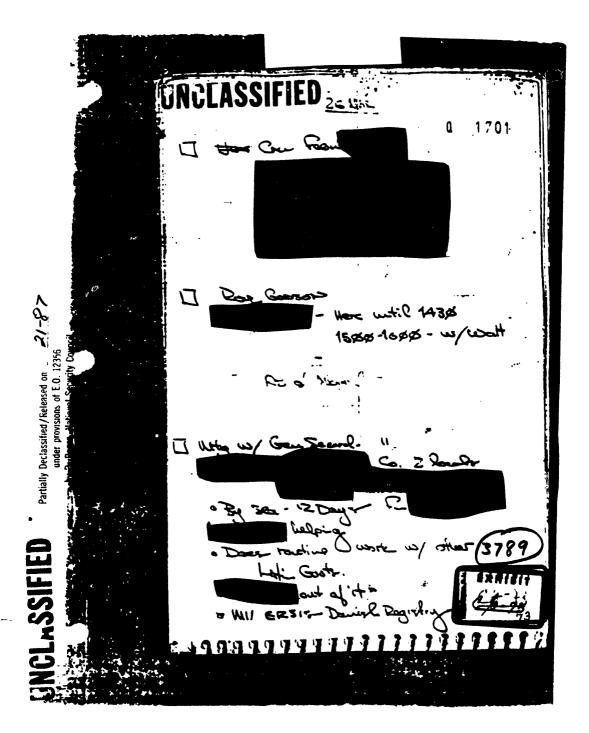
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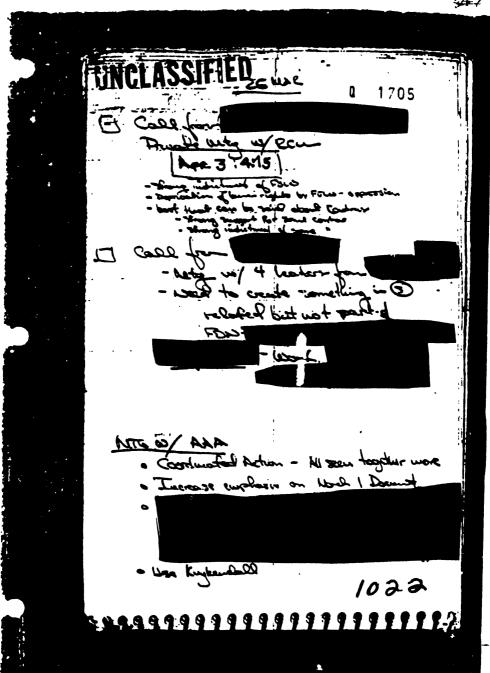
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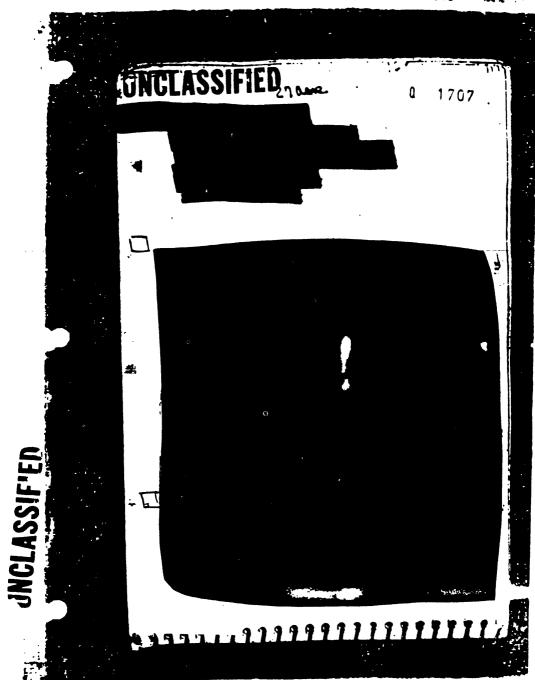
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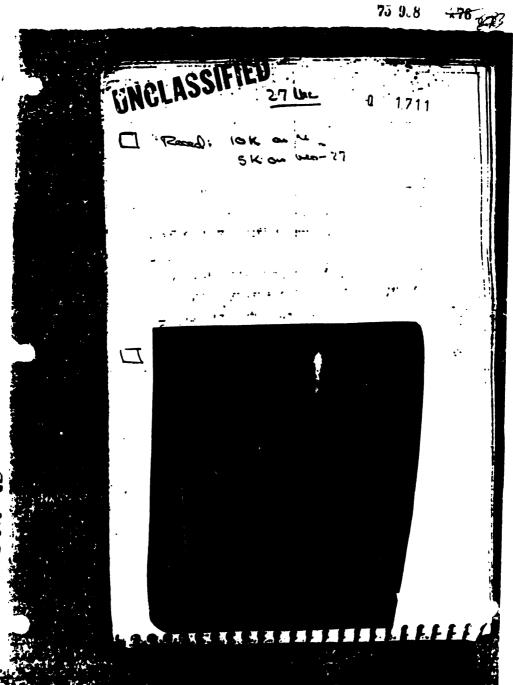
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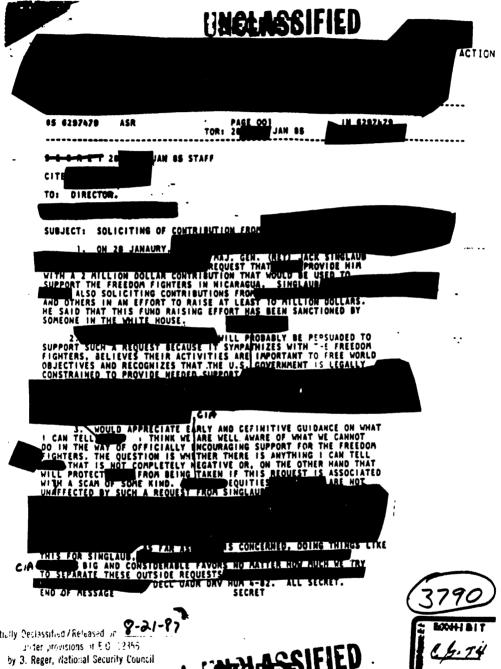
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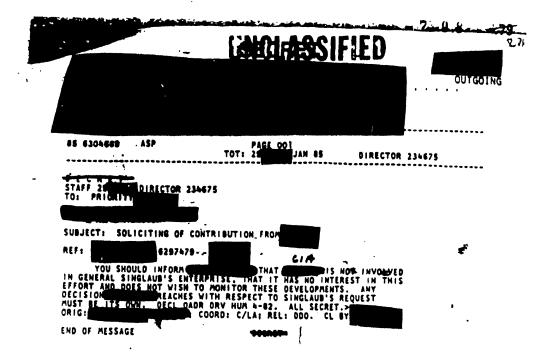
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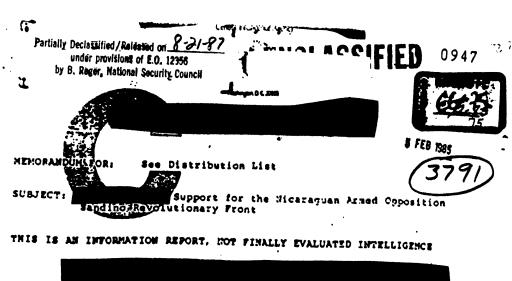
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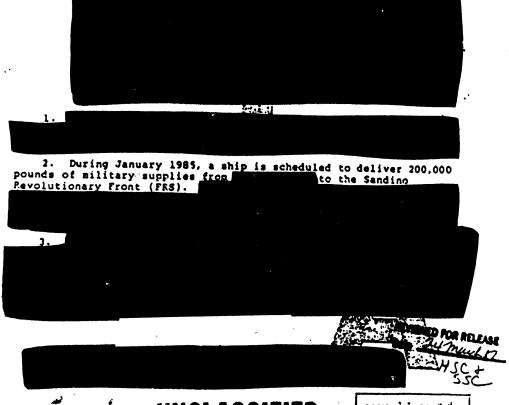




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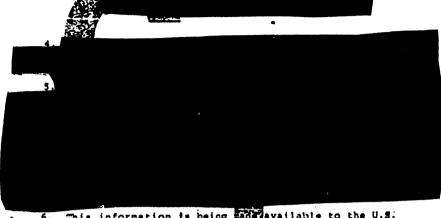
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6. This information is being sade available to the U.S. and to the commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Southern Command.

Clair E George
Ceputy Director for Operations

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DONE TY March 17

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The following is a reconstruction of pryptic notes that I have from L DOCI John M. McMehon's Office with them DOI.

- - -- The political acone in Iran, issenfon, unrest, etc:

 - h might do and a table reflecting an order of
- DOCI noted that he would be attending a meeting at 10:00 AM ca Saturday, 7 December, with the President regarding the expansion of the informal link between the Transans and the Israelis;
 - with Israeli Foreign Ministry Official David Kinche:
 - et Iran wanted to get closer to the United States wondered (DOCI) whether this could se a ruse to get
- DBCI noted that Saturday's meeting would take stock of the two-track

Declaration / Released on _& - der provisions of E.O. 12356

by B. Reger, National Security Council

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ceviewed what had been done so fac:

--One plane load had been sent to the francais on 24 Movember; we did not know if that included Hawk missiles;

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- --Oliver North was to get to London that weekend for discussions; the following week he was arranging up to five plane loads, including 747s;
- --These would probably overfly going from Israel to Iran;
- -- President signed the finding: (2 am not carrow who at the matter actually said that I
- --Oliver North was lining up the planes; we don't know now.
- In response to a question about a clearance for the landing rights, scheone noted that the response to a question about a clearance for the landing by;
- A question was raised regarding a plane going to Iran from Jerusalem and possibly stopping in Texas;

No further information was

EVILLE PICE

- A review of recent Iranian reporting noted the following:
 - -- No real opposition that we could capitalize on;
 - --Khomeini seemed to be in better health;
 - -- The economic situation was deteriorating;
 - -- The possibility of a new major offensive could stimulate opposition within Iran;
 - -- Key players were Kimche and the private J.S. citizen-interlocutor.
 - --Weir released for one plane load: 35t nothing for second load.
 - --DDCI requested that the source of this information be checked.
- O DDCI also requested any intelligence coverage

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HENOBARDER FOR

Pirector of Central Intelligence

FROM -

Peputy Director for Intelligence

SUBJECT

: Micaragua

 It is time to talk absolutely straight about icaragus. To recen where we are:

- --- The Soviets and Cubass are turning Micaragus into an armed camp with military forces far beyond its defensive needs and in a position to intimidate and coerce its neighbors.
- -- The Micaraguan regime is steadily moving toward consolidation of a Marxist-Lenirist government and the establishment of a permanent and well armed ally of the Soviet Union and Cuha on the mainland of the Western Hemisphere. Its avowed aim is to spread further revolution in the America.

The PDN has been dented American againtance.

of refugees and others the, seeing abandement of American efforts to force the fundiciates to alter their regime, will see the handwriting on the wall, determine that their personal futures are in peril and leave the country. It is alterether conceivable that we could be

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looking at an initial refugee wave from Micarague over people (the people (the feetilies of the Contras alone could account for people of the United States to provide further assistance to the resistance and collapse of the Contrasovement would force

These unsettled nolitical and military circumstances in Gentral America would undoubtedly result in renewed and result in the region. (S)

7. These are strong assertions but our research as well as the reports of our people make it possible to substantiate each of the above points. (5)

3. What is happening in Gentral America in many ways vividly calls to mind the old saw that those who forget the past are condenned to repeat it.

- -- In 1958-60 we thought that we could reach some sort of an accommodation with Castro that would encourage him to huild a pluralistic government in Cuba. We have been trying to do the same thing with the Nicaraguans, with the same success.
- -- In Vietnam, our strategy consisted of a series of measures and ied very gradually and over a long period of time. With each aten of new IIS involvement the gradual approach enabled the enemy to adjust to each new turn of the screw so that by the end of the war, even in the face of the most severe bombine, the Vietnamese had developed enormous tolerance. Palf measures, half-heartedly anolied, will have the same result in Vicaragua
- -- In 1975, the United States President announced that American assistance to UNITA in Angola was in the national interest of the United States and strongly urged the Congress to support military assistance to that group. The Congress turned it down, thereby not only proving that the United States would not involve itself in any significant way in the Third World to combat Soviet subversion and activity but, moreover, that the Congress could effectively block any moves the President did wish to make. The Roland Amendment and the cutoff of aid to the Congress is having the same

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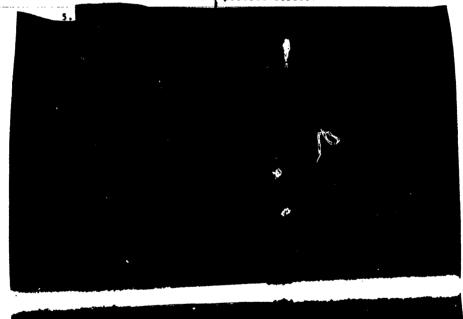
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effect again, showing the Soviets and our Third World Telands how little has changed in nine years, even with Provident like Ronald Reagan.

In a milety of places, including Vietnam, negotiations in effect became a cover for the consolidation and further expansion of Communist control. While they might observe whatever agreements were reached for the first meets or as long as American attention (perticularly media attention) was focused on the situation, they knew they could outlast our attention epan. Usually within a relatively short period of time they were openly violating whatever agreements had been achieved. (5)

4. The truth of the matter is that our policy has been to suddle along in Miceragua with an essentially half-hearted policy substantially because there is no agreement within the Administration or with the Congress on our real objectives. We started out justifying the program on the basis of curtailing the flow of weapons to El Selvador. Laudeble though that objective might have been, it was attacking a symptom of a larger problem in Central America and not the problem itself.



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6 December 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Deputy Director of Central Intelligence Deputy Director for Operations Chief, Latin America Division, DO Chief, Central America Task Force, DO

FROM:

Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT:

Analysis of the Nicaraguan Revolution

1. That's a good analysis of the Micaraguan revolution and our options with respect to it that the Central America Task Force did recently. Me now have to get the best thinking here on the policy and operational actions for which it calls, and this should be done as quickly as possible. As the analysis states so well, time is short.

What is really needed is an approach to the Nicaraguan problem which is comprehensive

LINESC STATES WERE IN COMMUNICATION TRACTIONARY METALES ANCE

to be supported by all elements of the US Government we need the involvement of other countries which have a stake in checking communist expansionism in the we need the involvement less developed world.

Linear backyard we should not, in my opinion, discourage including which have indicated some degree of interest.

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J. Casey

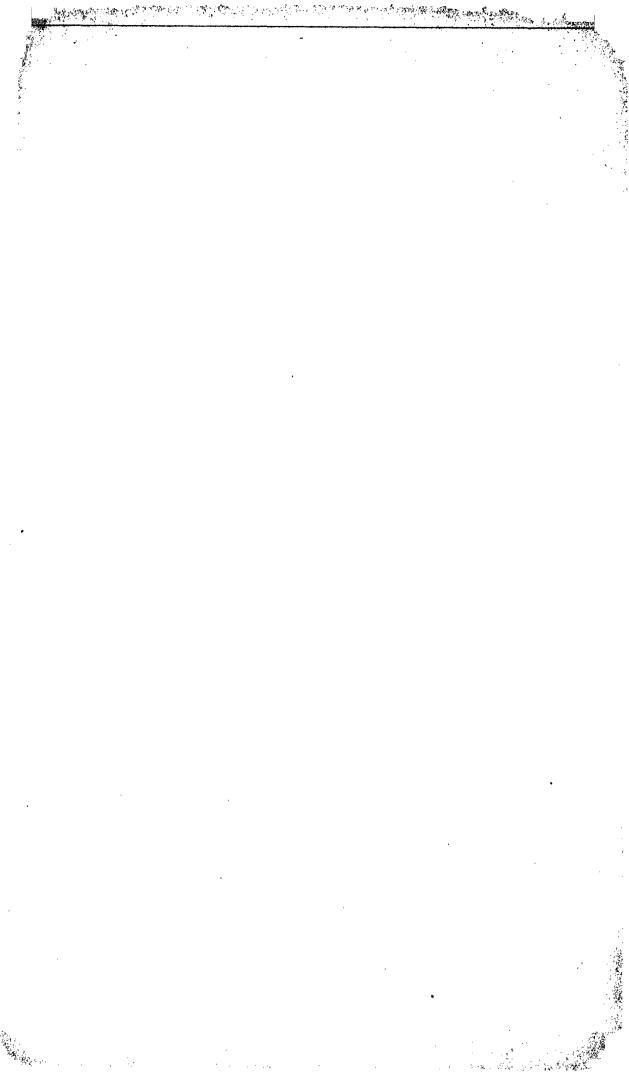
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APPENDIX B: OTHER DOCUMENTS AND MATERIALS INTRODUCED AT THE HEARINGS



Text of Goldwater's Letter to Head of C.J

WASHINGTON, April 10 — Policuing is the last of a letter sent Monday to William J. Cosey, Director of Cantral Intelligence, by Senator Barry Goldwater, Republican of Arisana, in his capacity as chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:

Dear Bill

All this past weekend, I've been trying to figure out how I can need easily tell you my feelings about the discovery of the President having approved mining some of the harbors of

It gets down to can, juins, simple phrase: I am [empletive deleted]! I understand you had briefed the House on this matter. I've heard that. Now, during the important debane we had all last week and the week before, for the Moarague program, we were design all right until a member of the committee charged that the President had approved the mining, strongly desied that because I has never heard of it. I found out the next day that the C.I.A. had, with the written approval of the President, on gaged in puch mining, and the ap turned accide in February!

Bill, this is no way to run a railroad and I find myself in a hell of a quandary. I am forced to apologies to the members of the intelligence committes because I did not know the facts on this. At the same time, my counternary is the Mouse did honer.

The President has asked us to back his foreign policy. Bill, how can we back his foreign policy when we don't know what the hell he is doing? Lebe man, yes, we all know that he sen troops over there. But gains the her bors in Micaragua? This is inting international law. war. For the life of me, 1.

My simple games is that the Hosis going to defeat this supplemental and we will not be in any position to put up much of an argument after we were not given the information we were estitled to receive; particularly, if my memory serves me correcity, when you briefed us on Central America just a couple of weeks ago.

I don't like this. I don't like it one bit from the Freedest or from you. I don't thisk we seed a lot of lengthy explanations. The deed has been done, and, in the foture, if anything like this happens, I'm going to rase one hell of a lor of free about it is orthise.

BARRY GOLDWATE

April 10, 1874



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CBS EVENING NEWS
with
DAN RATHER
(Bob Schieffer substituting)

as broadcast over the

CBS TELEVISION NETWORK

Friday, April 6, 1984

6:30 - 7:00 PM, EST 7:00 - 7:30 PM, EST (Update)

PRODUCED BY CBS NEWS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Lane Venardos



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CBS EVENING NEWS WITH DAN RATHER (Bob Sobieffer substituting)

4/8/84

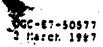
*SCHIRFFER: U.S. Government sources have told CBS News that the Intelligence Agency is actively directing the mining of Micaraguan ports. It .. been thought that anti-Sandinista rebels were responsible, but these government . sources say the rebels are not doing any of the mine-laying. The nationality of just who is is not known. The CIA has a freighter off Micaragua's coast and sources say boats are lowered from it to take the mines into the harbors.

(Ahead: Month's Worth of Rain / Swish . . . History is Made)
(ANNO UNCEMENTS)



Repositioned here in 7:00 East (see p. 13)

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DUM FOR:

General Counsel

Exi George Jameson ssociate General Counsel

Assistance to Military Resupply Activities of the Ricaraguan Democratic Resistance



ISSUE:

You have asked for an opinion on CIA's authority during Fiscal Year 1986 to provide assistance to the military resupply Fiscal Year 1986 to provide assistance to the military resupply efforts of the Nicaraguan democratic resistance. The question arises because of allegations that a CIA officer during that time provided information to members of the resistance and to persons, the so-called 'private benefactors,' aiding them to enable the resistance to receive 'weapons, amountion, and other supplies inside Nicaragua during the period of a congressional limitation on the expenditure of funds to support paramilitary operations in Nicaragua. This memorandum was provided to, and discussed with, you in draft pine January 1987. It is substantially identical to that draft, except that it incorporates editorial comments. incorporates editorial comments provided to me on 5 February 1987.

SUMMARY:

1

During Fiscal Year 1986, CIA was authorized to provide limited information and advice to support the effective delivery and distribution of military It is both the degree of CIA's involvation nature of that involvement that is determinative. authorized CIA to share intelligence with the regist Darlially Ceciassified / helessed on 1920

under provisions of E.J. 12358 Security Council

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including information that would have petential military significance. The congressional report language states that CIA could not, however, engage in activities "that amount to participation in the planning or execution of military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua by the Micaraguan democratic resistance, or to participation in logistics activities integral to such operations." In my opinion, the law provided authority for CIA to provide insormation involving safe delivery sites, weather conditions, hostile risk assessments, and the like to assist the Micaraguan resistance in their resupply activities, where CIA's role did not amount to participating in the actual delivery of material or in planning, directing, or otherwise coordinating deliveries during the course of or in the context of specific military engagement.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

- 3. The applicable statutory provision is found at section 105 of the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1986* (P.L. 99-169, 4 Dec. 1985), which provides:
 - (a) Funds available to the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, or any other agency or entity of the United States involved in intelligence activities may be obligated and expended during fiscal year 1986 to provide funds, nateriel, or other assistance to the Mitaraguan democratic resistance to support military or paramilitary operations in Micaragua only as authorized in section 101 and as specified in the classified Schedule of Authorizations referred to insection 102, or pursuant to section 502 of the National Security Act of 1947, or to section 106 of the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1985 (Public Law 99-88).
 - (b) Nothing in this section precludes--
 - (1) administration, by the Micaraguan, Sumanitarian Assistance Office established by Executive Order 12530, of the program of humanitarian assistance to the Micaraguan democratic resistance provided for in the Supplemental Appropriations Act, 1985, order



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(2), activities of the Department of State to solicit such humanitarian assistance for the Ricaraguan democratic resistance.

The Joint Explanatory Statement that accompanied the conference report to H.R. 2419, which was the House version of this provision, stated.....

The conferees note that under current law and the restriction contained in Section 105 of this Conference Report, the intelligence agencies may provide advice, including intelligence and counterintelligence information, to the Micaraguan democratic resistance. Section 105 does not permit intelligence agencies to engage in activities, including training other than the communications training provided for pursuant to Section 105, that amount to participation in the planning or execution of military or paramilitary operations in Micaragua by the Micaraguan democratic resistance, or to participation in logistics activities integral to such operations. E.R. Rep. Mo. 99-373, 99th Cong., 1st Sess. 16 (1985).

4. In his presentation of the bill, MPSCI Chairman Hamilton stated that "training, or any other activities—including advice—that amount to participation in the planning or execution of military activities by the Contras, or acting as military advisors to the Contras, is prohibited." Cong. Rec. H.10294 (daily ed. 19 Nov. 1985).

Section 105 represents a small step forward toward full support for the resistance by permitting cooperation in the areas of information sharing, advice, transportation, and humanitarian aid. Idenation 8.10296.

The transportation assistance referred to above by Charman Hamilton was to be provided by the State Department - note:

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CIA--for delivery of humanitarian aid. And would constitute participation rather than mere provision of advice. It was in this context that Representative Bonior specifically addressed the restriction on CIA's participation in activities "such as training, or anything including logistical support, that would amount to participation in the planning or execution of paramilitary or military operations in Nicaragua." He drew the distinction between-permissible and nonpermissible involvement as follows:

Thus. Mr. Speaker, the intelligence authorization conference report has drawn a clear line between, on the one hand, the sharing of intelligence information with the Contras, which U.S. agencies involved in intelligence activities are permitted to do; and, on the other hand, planning for, participation in, or providing advice on any paramilitary or military operations, which U.S. agencies involved in intelligence activities are expressly prohibited from doing. Id. at H.10297.

Congressman Hamilton agreed.

5. Two days later, Senator Durenberger, in presenting the bill to the Senate for passage, attempted to clarify the intent of the provision:

Clearly, the intelligence agencies will be providing information and advice on matters of concern to the Micaraguan democratic resistance, such as information on Sandinista capabilities, resources and intentions, and advice on matters such as effective delivery and distribution of materiel. The conferees have, however, specified that the intelligence agencies are not to engage in activities that actually amount to participation in the planning or execution of military or paramilitary operations in Micaragua by the Micaraguan democratic resistance, or to participation in logistics activities integral to such operations. Cong. Rec. S.16074 (daily edization. 1985).



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The legislative history, therefore, seems to draw distinctions between, on the one hand, participation, planning, and providing advice (which would not be permitted in support of paramilitary operations) and, on the other hand, information-sharing, including advice on the delivery of supplies. This information-sharing would be authorized even if it would have potential military significance so long as it did not amount to participation, planning, or military advice. There is no clear indication that Congress intended to prohibit CIA from giving advice on supply operations, and some indication that it did intend. to distinguish between mere information-sharing and intend to distinguish between mere information-sharing and actual participation in such operations. Furthermore, would appear to be a valid distinction between permissible, general military resupply operations and operations in the context of specific military operations, which were not authorized.

OGC VIEWS:

6. With this in mind, the Office of General Counsel, following enactment of the bill into law, took a forward-leaning although guarded position on the provision of forward-leaning although guarded position on the provision of information relating to the supply of resistance forces.

Essentially, OGC interpreted the law not to distinguish between information or advice of a logistical nature and advice in general, except for advice on specific military operations. On 19 December 1985, then General Counsel Stanley Sporkin noted to the Director of Central Intelligence in the context of this congressional restriction that; while advice on logistical matters not 'integral' to military operations would be acceptable, there is a fine like to be drawn and greater cause for concern the closer the CIA role approaches the provision of advice that supports specific military operations" (Tab A). In addressing the implications of any efforts for CIA to give advice on the effective delivery and distribution of military equipment, Mr. Sporkin seemed to say that OGC could legally defend CIA's authority to do so, although he thought that this would have to be worked out with the intelligence committees in order to maintain a consensus on the program. This cautionary order to maintain a consensus on the program. This cautionar note was given in the face of disagreement that arose between This Cautionary HPSCI Chairman Hamilton and SSCI Chairman Durenberger tollowing



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the enactment of section 105 and in light of the latter's statement to the Senate.

HPSCI/SSCI DISAGREEMENT:

1985, stated that—the law intended to preclude advising the resistance on "logistical operations upon which military or paramilitary-operations depend for their effectiveness" (Tab B). Senator Durenberger disagreed and, in a letter to Hamilton dated 5 December 1985, stated that he believed the law would preclude advice on logistics activities integral to the effectiveness of particular military or paramilitary operations if it would amount to "participation" in such activities, even if that participation were not "physical." However, he distinguished between "general logistical advice (or logistical advice related to humanitarian or communications assistance) and advice that amounts to participation in logistics activities integral to military on paramilitary operations" (Tab C). Clearly, Senator Durenberger, in responding to Congressman Hamilton, intended to permit a wider range of advisory activities than Chairman Hamilton. In a reply, on 9 December 1985 (Tab D), Chairman Hamilton expressed his continued disagreement. He also implied that this was because any logistical advice could be used to support paramilitary operations, and be seen as prohibited military advice:

It would ill serve the Agency to become embroiled in controversy at this juncture regarding a matter about which Congress has expressed such repeated reservations.

Setting aside for a moment the purely hortatory nature of this language, if Chairman Hamilton's view were adopted, it would mean that Congress intended that CIA provide no military-related information to the resistance. (See Tab E for OGC opinion on authority to share intelligence of potential military acceptable advices and military advice, between information-sharing and participation in, or planning for military operations, or between activities integral to military operations, and provision

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of information to support logistics activities in a more general context (that is; not involving a specific military operation or engagement as opposed to routine or periodic resupply). This Agency, in fact, adopted an interpretation more in line with the SSCI position.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS:

8.—On.3 February 1986, Chairman Hamilton requested an interpretation of the phrase "effective delivery and distribution of material to the resistance," and asked how CIA would "ensure that advice you may give does not rise to training resistance forces in logistics activities." The Agency's response made it clear that it considered the provision of advice to support resupply efforts to be authorized, including "general advice that is not specific or essential to planning or executing military or paramilitary operations in Nicaragua" (Tab F). I believe the exchange—indicates a clear HPSCI recognization that CIA would give resistance information and advice relating to resistance activities.

CONCLUSION:

9. In conclusion, in Fiscal Year 1986 CIA was authorized to provide information to the Microsaguet Concrete resistance that could include intelligence information of potential military significance; for example, information on Sandinista capabilities, resources, and fintentions. CIA also could provide advice on matters such as the effective delivery and distribution of military equipment, so long as this did not amount to participation in paramilitary operations in Nicaragua, either in their planning or execution, or in logistics activities "integral" to such operations. Advice could rise to the level of participation if CIA took an active part in planning or coordinating resupply missions for specific paramilitary operations. Movever, Marchy massing intelligence on Sandinista gun or rader placements, weather conditions; Flight vectors, and other information to assist in the delivery of supplies for general maintenance of the forces in the civery of would not seem to be promibited, both presume this would not be integral to a paramilitary operation as contemplated by





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Congress. To adopt the more restrict view of MPSCI Chairman Hamilton would require a determination that all advice or information sharing on logistics operations, even general advice unrelated to a specific resupply affort, would be prohibited because that, too, would be participation 'integral' to military operations in Nicaragua. Congress, in my view, did not intend to go so far. Accordingly, the same kind of information-sharing with the public benefactors for general resupply/logistics activities not integral to specific military or paramilitary operations—as that term was contemplated by the statute, also would not be precluded by law, Of course, all relevant facts would nave to be reviewed in order to determine whether the activities of a specific CIA employee were consistent with the statute during the applicable period.

Attachments, a/s





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AUTH:

END OF MESSAGE



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Our understanding CAI, Steel and possibly Amb have field Long meeting over last two days. Results thus far. It can no longer speak to anyone, include Ralph, on operational matters. CIA says there will be one operator/controller sent here from Uno who will direct all operations. Once he is here. I hust turn in his 43, we don't know about Steel's. In conversation with Ralph last night, he said we will be his only means of support, none will come from Do not know yet what Steel's role will be in future. Evidently CIA has done much discussing with Washington layers on this and are concerned with their legal status in this program. Know you have same concern for our position but can work out with Good.

under provisions of E.D. 12356
by B. Reger, National Recently Council

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COVERT ARMS TRANSACTIONS WITH IRAN
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WASHINGTON, DC 20618
(202) 226-7902

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MEMORANDUM

Chairman Hamilton

John Nields

FROM:

Robert A. Bermingham

RE:

TO:

Allegations Re: Contra Involvement With Drug Smuggling

Synopsis

Our investigation has not developed any corroboration of media-exploited allegations that U.S. government-condoned drug trafficking by Contra leaders or Contra organizations or that Contra leaders or organizations did in fact take part in such activity. The Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and the Crime Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee have been conducting investigation in this area, but, to date, have not developed concrete evidence. The Crime Subcommittee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee are continuing their inquiries, as is the Special Counsel. It is recommended that after coordination with Chairman Innouve, the Joint Committee issue a statement to the above effect and pledge cooperation with the Senate and House ongoing investigations.

Details

During the course of our investigation, the role of U.S. government officials who supported the Contras' and the private resupply effort, as well as the role of private individuals in resupply, were exhaustively examined. Hundreds of persons, including U.S. government employees, Contra leaders,

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- 2 -

representatives of foreign governments, U.S. and foreign law enforcement officials, military personnel, private pilots and crews involved in actual operations were questioned and their files and records examined. Despite numerous newspaper accounts to the contrary, no evidence was developed indicating that Contra leadership or Contra organizations were actually involved in drug trafficking. Sources of news stories indicating to the contrary were of doubtful veracity. There was no information developed indicating any U.S. government agency or organization condoned drug trafficking by the Contras or anyone else.

The scope of our investigation does not specifically include determining whether the Contras have been independently or individually involved in drug trafficking. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, particularly Senator Kerry; the House Select Committee on Narcotics Abuse and Control under Rep. Rangel; and the Crime Subcommittee under Rep. Hughes of the Judiciary Committee, have been looking into this specific subject for some time. They have travelled to Central America, interviewed witnesses there and in Miami and have held hearings. Rep. Rangel is quoted in the Washington Post, 7/22/87, as stating his investigation, which started in June of 1986 and includes reams of testimony from hundreds of witnesses, developed no evidence which would show that Contra leadership was involved in drug smuggling. His Committee is to give its information to the Crime Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee which will continue to investigate whether U.S. government officials deliberately ignored drug dealing by individuals who carried supplies to the Contras. The Judiciary-has engaged a Miami-based investigator.

DEA and Justice have issued statements disclaiming any concrete evidence of such activities by U.S. government officials, Contra leaders or Contra organizations.

Dave Faulkner, Investigator, Senate Select Committee, advised that the Senate investigation was also substantially negative with regard to Contra drug smuggling. On 7/21/87, Faulkner and the writer conferred with Hayden Gregory, Counsel, of the Crime Subcommittee of the Judiciary. He confirmed that his committee has been and continues to investigate the question of U.S. government-sponsored Contra organizations being involved in drug smuggling. His investigation, including interviews in Central America and Miami of many of the persons named in the newspapers as suspects, has been inconclusive to date. He confirmed that several of those involved have also been questioned or deposed by the ongoing investigation by

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Senator Kerry. Gregory confirmed the newspaper account that Representative Rangel's committee is deferring to the Judiciary in this matter. He also stated he has, to date, developed no pertinent information above the level of "street talk".

During the course of our investigation, we examined files of State, DoD, NSC, CIA, DEA, Justice, Customs and FBI, especially those reportedly involving newspaper allegations of Contra drug trafficking. We have discovered that almost all of these allegations originate from persons indicted or convicted of drug smuggling. Justice has stated that such persons are more and more claiming, as a defense, that they were smuggling for the benefit of the Contras in what they believed was a U.S. government-sponsored operation. Typically, they furnish no information which can be corroborated by investigation. In addition to the above-mentioned negative file reviews, interviews with employees of these U.S. agencies have also been negative.

Contra leaders have been interviewed and their bank records examined. They denied any connection with or knowledge of drug trafficking. Examination of Contra financial records, private enterprise business records and income tax returns of several individuals failed to locate any indication of drug trafficking.

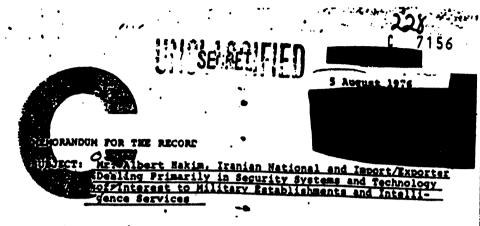
It is known that the Special Counsel is looking into this area and that the FBI has pending investigations regarding similar allegations.

Conclusion

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It is felt that additional investigation of these allegations is unwarranted in view of the negative results to date, the questionable reliability of the accusers, the fact that two Congressional committees are already deeply involved in such investigations and that the matter is currently under investigation by the Special Counsel.

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l. Background: In the period May to August 1976,
had collected numerous references to Mr. Albert
Bakim, born 1936 in Tehran, Iran, which indicated that this
gentleman was an influential factor in the export of American
open market technology to countries like Iran and Egypt.

data which was obtained in the May to August 1976 time frame

a. Educational lickground: Mr. Hakim is a 1958 graduate with a BSEE degree from California Polytech. Mr. Hakim considers himself a specialist in electronics, particularly insofar as this area of technology relates to the problems of military establishments and intelligence services.

b. Marital Status: -Mr. Hakim is married and has two children. The children attend school in Switzerland.

c. Residence: Mr. Hakim resides officially in Gex, France, but he also maintains a residence in Tehran, Iran. In addition, he is a frequent vielgor of the home offices of Stanford Technology Corporation, 5.0 Logue Avenue, Hountain View, California 94040 Constitution Mr. Hakim spends a lot of time in Geneval Swiffilland.

d. Commercial Structure: Mr. Hakil in hvolved in a number of commercial enterprises. In discussions which deal with potential exports from the 0.5. to Iran he represents himself as the President of Multicorp International, Ltd., 130 Sorays Avenue, Tehran, Iran Iran

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other conversations he indicates that he is the European representative for the Stanford Technology Corporation with a Bailing address of P.O. Box 52, 1211 Geneva, 24 Switzerland.

e. Type of Business: Mr. Hakim has let it be known that helis/currently in the process of selling the known that helis/currently in the process of selling the known to selling the known that the known to selling the known that the

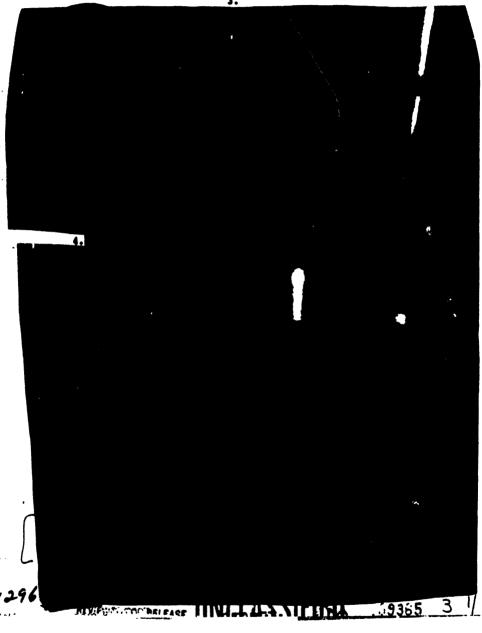
Assessment?

Mr. Hakim is quite amtious to play a pivotal cole in the Iranian purchase of American technology. As a result, Mr. Hakim is casting about for contacts in the U.S. Government with whom he can find a mutuality of interest concerning Iranian attempts to procure hardware in the U.S.

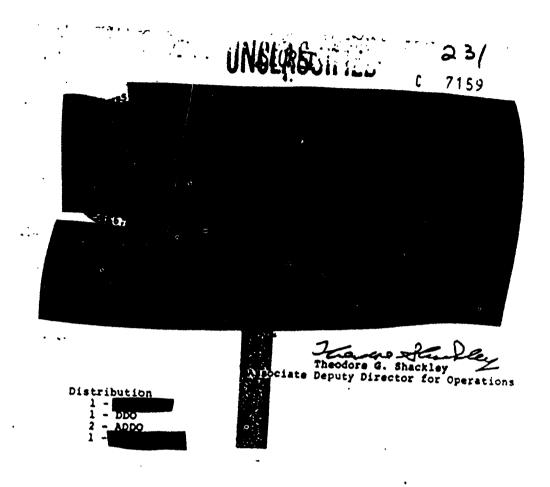
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JASECRETFIED : 00005

NOTE
Charlie
FROM:
Joann
SUBJECT:
Joann
Call

wang 1661A 12/9/85

1. Micheal Ledeen called to speak to you this morning, with what he termed a "Flash" for you "to pass to Dewey". I explained you were out of town until Tues. night, but I was your chief of staff - could I help? He hesitated for some long moments, then said no, he'd get the message to Dewey another way.

2. Dewey is on TDY all week, so unprisingly tedeen called back about an hour later ("This wanting me to pass a message to Dewey message was as follows:

today at 1945 (local time) of the will be having dinner in Frankfurt at least two other on who arrived there wester. One of these guys is

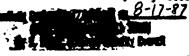
native country—

by new. I don't know who

the other one is. Inver may be more at the dinner,
but there will be at least these two.

3. I went down to EUR and talked to the Dep. Unlef, tho said Dewey was handling everything involved with this with the So I called DESK OFFICER.

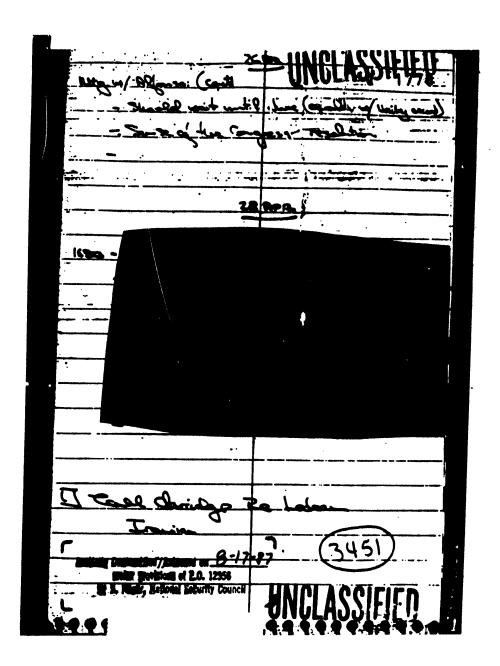
4. It took while to get back to me, but when he did, he seemed a bit confused. He did not know with but said he would find out and handle all this with the agreed that we/he would have to move fast, because by the we were down to a window of only a couple of hours. I'll to to move fast, because by the we were down to a window of only a couple of hours. I'll to to move fast, because by the we were down to see what—if anything—occurred.



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United States Senate

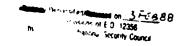
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184-1274

The Honorable William J. Casey Director of Central Intelligence Central Intelligence Agency Washington, D.C. 20505



Dear Bill:

Francis .

All this past weekend, I've been trying to figure out how I can most easily tell you my feelings about the discovery of the President having approved mining some of the harbors of Central America.

It gets down to one, little, simple phrase: I am pissed off!

I understand you had briefed the House on this matter. that. Now, during the important debate we had all last week and the week before, on whether we would increase funds for the Nicaragua program, we were doing all right, until a Member of the Committee charged that the President had approved the mining. I strongly denied that because I had never heard of it. I found out the next day that the CIA had, with the written approval of the President, engaged in such mining, and the approval came in February!

Bill, this is no way to run a railroad and I find myself in a hell of a quandary. I am forced to apologize to the Hembers of the Intelligence Committee because I did not know the facts on this. At the same time, my counterpart in the House did know.

The President has asked us to back his foreign policy. Bill, how can we back his foreign policy when we don't know what the hell he is doing? Lebanon, yes, we all knew that he sent troops over there. But mine the harbors in Niceragua? This is an act violating international law. It is an act of war. For the life σf so, I don't see how we are going to explain it.

My simple guess is that the House is going to defeat this supplemental and we will not be in any position to put up much of an argument after we were not given the information we were entitled to receive; particularly, if my memory serves me correctly, when you briefed us on Central America just a couple of weeks ago. And the order was signed before that.

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The Honorable William J. Casey Page Two April 9, 1984

I don't like this. I don't like it one bit from the President or from you. I don't think we need a lot of lengthy explanations. The deed has been done and, in the future, if anything like this happens, I'm going to raise one hell of a lot of fuss about it in public.

Single Jely,

Chairman

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CBS EVENING NEWS
with
DAN RATHER
(Bob Schieffer substituting)

as broadcast over the CBS TELEVISION NETWORK

Friday, April 6, 1984

6:30 - 7:00 PM, EST 7:00 - 7:30 PM, EST (Update)

PRODUCED BY CBS NEWS

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: Lane Venardos

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CBS EVENING NEWS WITH DAN RATHER (Bob Schieffer substituting)

4/6/84

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*SCHIEFFER: U.S. Government sources have told CBS News that the Central Intelligence Agency is actively directing the mining of Nicaraguan ports. It had been thought that anti-Sandinista rebels were responsible, but these government sources say the rebels are not doing any of the mine-laying. The nationality of just who is is not known. The CIA has a freighter off Nicaragua's coast and sources say boats are lowered from it to take the mines into the harbors.

(Ahead: Month's Worth of Rain / Swish . . . History is Made)

(ANNOUNCEMENTS)

1886

Repositioned here in 7:00 East (see p. 13)

AMERICANS ON SHIP SAID TO SUPERVISE NICARAGUA MINING

INVOLVEMENT IS ASSAILED

Actual Placement of Devices Is Reportedly Carried Out by Latin Commandos

By PHILIP TAUBMAN

WASHINGTON, April 7 -- Americans working for the Central Intelligence Agency on a ship off Nicaragua's Pacific coast have been supervising the mining of Nicaraguan barbors in remining of Michragum marters as /w-cent months, according to Reagan Ad-ministration officials and members of

The sources say the mining operation marks the first time since the United States began supporting Nicaraguan rebels three years ago that Americans have become directly involved in mili-tary operations against Nicaragua.

The actual placement of the mines made Nicaraguan territorial waters, they said, is handled by an elite group of Latin American commandos who use small, high-speed boats to per trate shipping lanes close to shore.

*Closer to Direct Confrontation

The officials said that unlike ground operations inside Nicaragua conducted by rebel forces, which American advis-ers monitor from Honduras but do not control, the planting of the mines in Nicaraguan waters directly involves Americans and is under their immediate control

Members of the Senate and Bouse totelligence committees said the role of the Americans constituted a significant the Americans constituted a significant change in C.I.A. operations against Nicaragua and, as one Democratic Sensior said, "crosses a threshold that brings as closer to a direct confrontation with Nicaragua." tion with Nicaragua.

A spokesman for the C.LA., Dale, Petersen, said today that the agency would not comment on the mining cans. Intelligence officials said privately that Americans involved in the mining activity do not enter Nicara-

Territorial Limits Are Disput

Nicaragua clairos territorial waters up to 200 miles off shore, but the United States respects only a 12-mile limit. The intelligence ship that carries
Americans operates outside the 12-mile
limit but well within the 200-mile
boundary, Administration officials
and The high-speed bonts travel said. The high-speed boats travel within a mile or two of the Nicaraguan

Based on the 12-mile limit respected by the United States, intelligence officasis contended that Americans are not directly involved in military operation against Nicaragua but instead serve in an advisory Capacity in international waters similar to the role of Americans based in Honduras who train and cootime to belp supervise rebel ground forces inside bicaragua.

Members of Congress, including Democrats and Republicans, said the

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fact that Americans remain outside the 12-mile limit does not lessen their re-sponsibility for the operation

"We have carefully monitored these activities to insure that, whatever else happened, Americans didn't get indocument-type operations against Nica-ragus," a Republican member of the Sensia tratallysence communications. ate intelligence committee said.

'Lavelved Directly'

The Senator, who asked to remain anonymous, added: "That distinction has now been lost. When an American as now been lost. When an American is on the mother ship in a mining opera-tion, he's involved directly in military activities. It's irrelevant whether the ship is in international waters."

Neither the Senate nor House com mittees were informed about the min mittees were informed about the mining or the participation of Americans until recent weeks. Senator Daniel Patrick Moyniban, Democrat of New York and vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, said in an interview Priday, "The mining must be stopped and it will be stopped." Be said the Senate committee has scheduled a meeting next week with senior C.I.A. officials to discuss the mining operation.

ach and British Cons

Mr. Moynthan, who earlier this week voted in favor of giving the C.I.A. an additional \$21 million to support Nica-ragons: rebel activities this year, said he opposed the mining on the grounds that it violates freedom of the seas and

places the United States in "the absurd position of laying mines that Western European nations may come and re-

Mr. Moynihan was referring to an offer by France, made public on Thursday, to belp Nicaragua clear the mines. Britain told the Reagan Administration earlier this week that it disapproved of the mining as an interference with international shipping.

The House Select Committee on In-telligence was briefed about the mining operation within the last two weeks, according to members. There is wide cording to members. There is wide-spread opposition among House Demo-crats to the \$21 million increase in cov-ert aid to the Nicaraguan rebels ap-proved by the Senate this week, and the mining issue is expected to play a major role in House debate on the

Mining Began 2 Months Ag

Mining Began 2 Meeths Age

The mining of three Nicaraguan harbors, Puerto Corinto and Puerto
Sandino on the Pacific cosst and El
Bluff on the Atlantic, began two
months ago without notification of Congress, according to members of the
Senate and House intelligence committiess. The mines have damaged venesis
from six nations, including a Soviet
freighter, since March 1.

The C.I.A., under federal law, is required to keep Congress informed
about the intelligence operations.
Members of Congress, although irritated by the delay in this case, said the
agency could reasonably have concluded that Congress implicitly approved an operation such as the mining
when it authorized financing for the

covert activities against Nicaragua.

Administration officials said American technicians were involved in supervising the mining because relatively advanced equipment was involved. They said three kinds of mines, ones that respond to direct contact, sound waves and water pressure, have been planted in Nicaraguan waters.

The mines, according to the Administration officials, were assembled in Hondurus and El Salvador with the Hondurus and El Salvador with the help of Americans. For the mining of Puerto Corinto and Puerto Sandino, they said, the mines and small, high-speed boats used to place them in shipping lanes were transported to waters off Nicaragus aboard a larger visual that serves as the nerve canter for the operation.

Ship Medified by C.L.A.

The ship, which was modified by the C.I.A. to support mining operations, carried both Americans and an elite unit of Latin Americans who were trained to plant mines by the United States, according to the Administration officials.

The acrual planting of the mines in harbor approaches was done by the Latin Americans, the Administration officials said, following plans prepared by Americans aboard the headquarters ship.

Administration officials said that if the mining operation is suspended be-cause of Congressional opposition, the mines already planted would not pose an indefinite threat to shapping because they are programmed to become inop-erable after several months.

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